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Six Allied Armies, Standing On Or Over The Reich Border, Are

Ready Now To Challenge Enemy's Grand Defensive Strategy

VON RUNDSTEDT FACES BIG SHOWDOWN IN THE WEST

From WILLIAM STEEN, Reuter's Special Correspondent
Supreme H.Q., Saturday.

VON RUNDSTEDT, GERMAN COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF IN THE WEST, TODAY FACES THE BIG SHOWDOWN. EVERY ALLIED ARMY, AFTER LONG AND PITILESS SLOGGING, THIS WEEK-END STANDS ALONG OR THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE, CHALLENGING THE ENEMY'S GRAND DEFENSIVE STRATEGY.

The first month of Eisenhower's winter offensive has brought all the armies to their first objectives—the Roer, the Rhine and the Siegfried Line. Soon the second phase—the all-out assault on these barriers—may begin.

Von Rundstedt has yielded substantial ground to withdraw the bulk of his forces to this 600-mile "Save the Reich" barrier. He has massed his inadequate tanks and guns at its most vital sectors

But whatever he does he cannot stop our men eating their Christmas dinner inside Germany.

Today, Gen. Patch's men, the latest to cross the frontier, are being heavily shelled by the Siegfried guns west of Karlsruhe.

Along the Roer and north to Arnhem there is an ominous quiet.

The task ahead has been eased to some extent by the tremendous losses inflicted on the Wehrmacht. For the first 22 days of the offensive they lost an average of 7,900 men per day in killed, captured and long-term casualties. Since then they have still been losing more than 1,000 a day in prisoners alone

These losses are higher than they can replace with first-grade troops, and the quality of the men defending the Siegfried Line must inevitably go down.

The Line is reported to be particularly strong at the sector where Patch's men are closing in on the defence—west of Karlsruhe.

The Germans have switched a Panzer division to strengthen their defences here, but the Americans have swept up to or across the frontier for 17 miles east and west of the Wissembourg gateway to the gap.

Fighting as grim as that in the Saar may soon develop here.

To the east, Patton's men are having some of their hardest battles in the Dillingen and Saarlautern areas, where thousands of shells from Siegfried guns crash each day into Allied bridgeheads. Repeated counter - attacks are being beaten off.

For days the battle has been stalemated about 3½ miles from Saarbrucken, but further east Patton's men have crossed the frontier at new points.

Along the 27-mile stretch of the Roer, now controlled by the First and Ninth Armies, the Germans are on the watch for any attempt to break into the plain of Cologne.

Further north the report from Montgomery's front day after day has been "no change."

The Germans know the British for the hard hitting army they are, and must be wondering what is behind this spell of inactivity. In the north the Wehrmacht watchword is probably "Watch Dempsey."

From their positions on the Maas the British threaten the heart of the Ruhr—Dusseldorf, Krefeld, Duisburg, Mulheim and Essen.

They are only 25 miles from Duisburg, while the First Army is 21 miles from Cologne at the western approaches of Duren.

HUN EVACUATION PANIC

Thousands Flee The Rhineland

From REGINALD LANGFORD
Zurich, Saturday.

ALMOST the entire population of the Rhineland is fleeing before the advancing British and American armies, some 20 miles to the west, according to refugees reaching Switzerland from Cologne.

Tens of thousands of homeless Germans are leaving their homes for East and South Germany.

Hundreds, unable to find transport, are fleeing on foot. Scores die of exposure caused by camping out at night under appalling weather conditions.

Scores more are dying of hunger

Cologne's pre-war population of 1,000,000 has shrunk to 65,000. Ration-cards in the city are no longer issued, so that starvation is the inevitable fate of those resisting the Government's evacuation order.

Cologne itself is almost totally devastated, with only isolated buildings remaining.

Thirty Germans have been publicly hanged in Cologne as "dissentients and grumblers," and were left hanging for 24 hours

Armed Ukranian bands, holding the cellars in the ruins of several quarters, shoot at every uniformed official they see.

Although several of these "nests" have been smoked out, an ever-growing number of foreign workers manage to steal weapons and join their comrades below ground

The Rhineland public answers the Hitler salute with stones, and several fanatical Nazis have been killed in this manner.

Last week alone 5,000 Rhineland fugitives arrived at Constance and thousands more are arriving daily in the south German districts of Baden and Wuerttemberg.

They come mainly from the regions of Duren, Julich, Duisburg and Merzenhausen.

Officials in Southern Germany are at their wits' end. Transport conditions are chaotic, the telephone system is hardly functioning, and the food shortage is acute.

Constance alone has to feed and house three times its normal population.—Reuter

7th Take Their First Hun Town

WHILE the American First and Ninth Armies yesterday were thrusting back enemy counter - attacks, the U.S. Seventh, under Gen. Patch, was establishing a fourth bridgehead along the 16-mile front of the Palatinate, and Gen. Patton's battle-hardened Third was going slowly ahead in its drive through the Saar.

Latest news, in brief, from the Western Front is:—

U.S. 7th Army:

Lauterburg captured. Four bridgeheads established over German border. Surprisingly weak enemy resistance.

Lauterburg, ten miles east of Wissemburg, and only a mile from the Rhine, is the first German town to be taken by Patch's men.

U.S. 1st Army:

Vigorous counter-attacks, some with tank support, launched by enemy. Two were against Gurzenich, suburb of Duren, on west bank of Roer.

These attacks are, apparently, an attempt to divert attention from Gen. Hodges' hammering of the Duren area and U.S. attacks in the Menschau Forest area.

U.S. 3rd Army:

Three hundred yards advance on 1,000 yards front made in Dillingen area: and similar gains recorded at Saarlautern.

Counter-attack repulsed just inside Germany at Habkirchen, and frontier reached at another point further to the north-east of Saareguemines

U.S. 9th Army:

First enemy counter-attack for two weeks against lines north of Lindern hurled back. Small successes gained by Germans in hour's fighting. Then Americans hit back and restored line to former position.

Prisoners and wounded, unable to withdraw when main attack was repulsed, still coming in. Captives taken by 9th since offensive for Roer began last month now number 8,480.

(Messages from Reuter, B.U.P. and A.P.)

Himmler's Young Thugs

YOUNG German S.S. men on the Western Front are wantonly destroying German homes and farms—not as part of a scorched earth policy, but from sheer habit.

Himmler admits this himself, writes Reuter's Continental Observer, in his own organ, the "Schwarzes Korps," which says:

"*Crowds of young men lacking any sense of material values run amok treating everything in their billets as utterly valueless—an outlook acquired no doubt when burning barns and houses during their retreats in foreign countries.*

"These lads think that a farmhouse is worth no more than a mortar, and that its furniture has not even the value of a heavy shell.

"We must ask them to remember that these farmhouses and their inventories represent the fruits of the labour of generations of Germans."—Reuter

BELGIAN CHIEF'S VISIT

M. Gutt, Belgian Finance Minister, has left Brussels for London, where he is to have financial talks with the British Government,

Maureen Webb, of Sussex, and Mary James, of Yorkshire, two of the Wrens who are going on service to Australia, in their all-white tropical kit.

U.S. Isolationists Get Busy

CRITICAL MONTHS FOR BIG THREE

(From HAROLD HUTCHINSON, B.U.P. Staff Correspondent)
Washington, Saturday.

THE most critical two months in the history of their alliance is now facing the Big Three—Mr. Churchill, Marshal Stalin and President Roosevelt—but the crisis is political and economic, and the military alliance will not be directly affected.

That is the view now taken in Washington.

Although plans are being made for a meeting, it is the general belief that it cannot take place before February.

In the meantime, a series of important conferences will be held in Washington next week in an attempt to clear up the immediate difficulties and prepare the groundwork for the meeting.

The first conferences will begin with Mr. Stettinius, the Secretary of State, when the British Minister of State, Mr. Richard Law, and a small group of British shipping and supply experts arrive.

This is expected to be followed by the arrival of Mr. Harold Macmillan, the British Minister, from Athens, who is expected to have discussions with the State Department on specific political questions affecting the Balkans and the Near East.

All this represents the initial attempt to clarify Anglo-American views and find common ground on which a final workable solution to the political and economic crises in liberated Europe can be built.

(Continued in Back Page)

8th Army Pushing On

From PETER LESSING
Rome, Saturday.

A NEW attack has been launched by the Eighth Army south-west of Faenza, and appreciable gains have been made.

Early this morning the enemy launched a fierce counter-attack with heavy artillery and massed Mark Four and Tiger tanks, but it was beaten off and more than 200 prisoners taken.

Heavy fighting is continuing, but our troops are advancing.

The enemy is hurling in more reinforcements against the Canadians. 10 miles north-east of Faenza, and Kesselring's personal storm battalion, which had been thrown in with close tank support, was reduced in strength to 250 men within 24 hours of coming into battle.

On the Fifth Army front the enemy also launched fierce attacks, but all attempts to force us back failed.—Exchange.

DE GAULLE IN PARIS

Paris, Saturday.

General de Gaulle today arrived back in Paris from his visit to Moscow.—Reuter.

To U.S. In No Time!

From STANLEY BURCH,
Reuter's Special Correspondent
New York Saturday.

TRAVEL from London to New York by jet plane within two or three years will take—minus 30 minutes.

You will be able to take off from London in a jet-propelled plane and land in New York by the American clock half an hour earlier than you left by British time

This practical possibility of beating the clock by flying through the stratosphere over the Atlantic in pressurised cabins soon after the end of the war is the prophecy made by Mr. Geoffrey Smith, the British pioneer-expert on jet propulsion, now in the U.S. on an official mission.

Mr. Smith is now completing his mission of making British achievements in the technical and scientific world better known throughout America.

He made his clock-beating prophecy to a big audience in New York. He afterwards told me:—

"Little is known by the ordinary American public of the great development in British aircraft loading capacity and of the progress with aero-engines generally.

"A famous British engineer, telling an American audience in 1942 about British aircraft, was asked with incredulity by a woman: 'Do you make planes in England? We thought you got them all from us through Lend-Lease.'"

Russo-French Anti-Nazi Pact

Paris, Saturday.

THE Russo-French Treaty signed by Gen. De Gaulle in Moscow, the text of which is being published tomorrow, is a 20-year treaty of defensive alliance and mutual assistance, designed primarily to prevent future German aggression, it is learned in Paris.

The Treaty, which contains eight articles, obliges France and the Soviet Union automatically to come to each other's assistance in case either is attacked by Germany in the future.

It also includes provisions for France to take part in the military occupation of Germany, in agreement with Britain and the United States, it is understood.

It follows the same general lines as the Anglo-Soviet Treaty. —B.U.P

THREE U-BOATS SUNK

Three German U-boats were sunk during an attack on an American convoy sailing for Murmansk, Paris Radio reports from Moscow.

Putting Glamour Into Tommy's Leave

From DOON CAMPBELL,
Reuter's Special Correspondent
21st Army Group H.Q.,
Saturday.

SOLDIERS of Field-Marshal Montgomery's Armies are to have super-dance halls with thousands of pretty girl hostesses here in Belgium.

These new Palais de Danses have been planned by Mr. W. E. Butlin, of holiday-camp fame, who is now Director of Hotels under the Ministry of Supply.

Ivan de Bie, a dance band leader has assembled an orchestra of the best swing musicians in the country to entertain British soldiers and the A.T.S.

Guest bands will be brought from Britain, and the cost of the resident band will be borne by NAAFI.

Brussels girls are queueing up in their hundreds every day to join this club and are being "vetted" by six hostesses, who will see that the soldier has the right kind of partner for the "Boogie Woogie" and waltzes from Vienna.

When these girls have been interviewed and "passed" they become "members."

A.T.S., W.A.A.F.s and Wrens will be admitted free of charge, but officers will not have the use of the club.

Soldiers will be able to take their girl friends into the hall, where dancing will finish at 10.30 at night.

Major Bond, speaking on behalf of Mr Butlin today, said the opening of the "21st Club" was part of a new large-scale policy to cater for the British soldier during his 48 hours' leave.

Tommy can dance in Brussels now, but is usually "stung." So now NAAFI, the Welfare Section and Mr. Butlin are taking over the "best halls in Belgium" and putting them at the disposal of the soldiers.—Reuter.

EAM TELLS SCOBIE: WE WANT NEW GOVERNMENT

Athens: New Peace Hope

From ROBERT BIGIO, Reuter's Special Correspondent
Athens, Saturday afternoon.

ATHENS is hopeful tonight that there will soon be a truce, following the delivery today of the reply from ELAS to the terms of General Ronald Scobie, and a statement by Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens that he had been approached and would accept an offer to become Regent of Greece.

The fifty - five - year - old Archbishop, who took a consistently anti-German stand during the occupation, is among Greek leaders received by Mr. Harold Macmillan, British Minister-Resident in the Mediterranean, since his arrival in Athens a few days ago.

Earlier Archbishop Damaskinos, when the prospect of a Regency was first broached, is said to have expressed his willingness to play a political rôle provided that he is assured of the support of all parties.

Agreeing to a temporary withdrawal of the ELAS formations from Athens and the Piræus "until a definite solution of the whole military question by the Government," the ELAS central committee, in their reply to Gen. Scobie, proposed the following terms:—

The temporary withdrawal of the Greek Mountain Brigade and the Sacred Squadron from Athens and the Piræus to an area to be defined by mutual agreement;

The whole gendarmerie force to be placed on reserve and the men to be dismissed to their homes as well as the disarming of officers and men of the former Ralli (Security) Battalion, who should be effectively confined in prison until tried by the courts;

British forces in Greece to be employed exclusively in the execution of the missions defined under the Caserta agreement, which did not envisage their employment in the internal affairs of Greece;

The political world of the country to be left uninfluenced in the formation as speedily as possible of a Government of real national unity which "will resolve by democratic means the whole political and military problems of the nation, including the question of the disarming of those not entitled to bear arms."

SCOBIE'S INSISTENCE

General Scobie, in his reply to the ELAS memorandum, said he was glad to observe that the memorandum accepted that ELAS formations should withdraw from Attica, but he pointed out that the second condition that all ELAS supporters in Athens and the Piræus should cease resistance and hand in their arms had not been mentioned.

He said he must continue to insist upon the satisfactory fulfilment of this condition.

[According to another version, Scobie said that as soon as ELAS agreed to disarm as well as evacuate Attica, he felt that other terms could be agreed upon and civil war would end.]

He further pointed out that the Greek Sacred Brigade was not in the Attica area and that the former Ralli battalions had all been disarmed and none of the officers or men held as State prisoners had been released.

Gen. Scobie added that British forces in Greece had "scrupulously adhered to the Caserta agreement."

(Continued in Back Page)

Red Army Surges On

GATE TO VIENNA MENACED

From DUNCAN HOOPER
Moscow, Saturday.

BRUSHING aside waves of furious German counter-attacks, Red Army soldiers, with "On to Vienna" as their watchword, are today swinging north of Budapest towards the Bratislava Gap—and Austria.

They are driving along the Central Europe road to the Reich, and are now within 85 miles of Bratislava, and just over 100 from Vienna itself.

As the offensive along the north bank of the Danube develops, the narrow valley may soon prove a conduit for a flow of troops to the Reich.

Red Army troops have driven a wedge beyond the Ipol River, which, if it is widened, may entail the fall of the entire German and Hungarian line.

Grave defeats are being inflicted on the German and Hungarian army. Soviet wedges have cut the German defences up the Danube bend north of Budapest into several separate districts. As the Red Army avalanche swung ever nearer to the Austrian border, Moscow today issued this appeal to the Austrian people:

"The Red Army—the Army of Liberation—is today on the threshold of Austria. Now is the time for Austrians to liberate their country from Prussian barbarism with all means at their disposal."

More and more Hungarian vassal troops are deserting the lost Nazi cause. Hungarian divisions are shrinking to regiments, regiments to platoons.

Although little news is available on the battle for Budapest, it seems clear that the fall of the city is imminent.

Tonight's Soviet communiqué announced more gains north and north-east of Miskolc, on the Hungarian-Czech border.

If the Red Army can muster striking power for a clean break towards the Bratislavia Gap and Vienna, the tug of war at Budapest's gates will lose its main significance.—Reuter.

Premier Refuses £9,000 Villa

MR. CHURCHILL has declined a £9,000 seaside villa at Torquay offered to him as a birthday gift and in admiration of his war leadership.

Mr. C. H. Boulton made the offer on behalf of several organisations, including the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

He has received a letter from Mr. Churchill's private secretary saying that the Prime Minister "was deeply touched by the kindness and generosity of the people of Torquay in wishing to present him with a house.

"Mr. Churchill is unable to accept your warm-hearted and delightful offer, but he would like all those associated with it to know how much he values the thought underlying your suggestion," it added.

'No Extra Rations Yet'

"THERE can be few, if any, increases of essential rations before the end of the war," Col. J. J. Llewellin, Minister of Food, announced at Uxbridge yesterday.

For this Col. Llewellin gave the reason: "The supply of food available in the world is limited and the demands of the United Nations' vast armed forces, both for food and shipping, are enormous."

When Germany had been defeated these demands would decrease, and we might then expect some permanent improvement in our national diet, he added.

Col. Llewellin said he was sorry he could not increase the Christmas extras or make them permanent; "but a good housekeeper—and I am the nation's housekeeper—has to keep a little in the larder."

'Fight For Freedom' Call To Austrians

DECLARING that the Red Army—the army of liberation—was on the threshold of Austria, Moscow Radio, in an appeal made in German to the Austrian people, yesterday said:

"Now is the time to fight for Austrian freedom and independence and to liberate Austria from Prussian barbarism with all means at your disposal.

"Austria for the Austrians."—Reuter.

My goodness—

Life is brighter after Guinness
G.E.1220.B

"Man o' the People" writes on things that matter to you & me.

Let's Talk It Over

ALTHOUGH no prudent man can put much faith in rumours from neutral countries, there may be some truth in the persistent report that the Nazi chieftains are already organising their own "resistance movement" to go into action after Germany's armed forces have surrendered. This story is at least plausible, because outlaws, whose lives are forfeit, would naturally tend to take to the hills when their fighting front collapsed. The cornered rat fights to the last because he is "for it" in any case.

What particularly impresses your correspondent about the latest crop of rumours "filtering out of the Reich" is the suggestion they all contain that Himmler and his high-up thugs and gauleiters hope that underground resistance can be maintained "long enough to profit by dissension among the Allies."

Actually there is strong reason to believe that German strategy today is largely dictated by this very hope. The Reichswehr generals are not fools. They know, just as our own commanders know, that Germany is bound to be beaten in the field if the war is fought out to the bitter end.

Their sole remaining hope is to prolong the struggle until their enemies fall out among themselves.

The hope is vain. Whatever differences may exist among the Allies, they will not and they dare not cease to fight until the military power of Germany is completely broken.

But it is by no means so certain that they will have sense enough to put all their differences into cold storage in order to gain decisive victory *at top speed.*

★

LOOK at it how you will, the Grecian tragedy has encouraged our enemies and hampered our own progress. It is more than likely, as I suggested last Sunday, that German agents or collaborators have helped to stir up trouble in Greece, Italy, Belgium and elsewhere.

Goebbels, Himmler and Company may be making too much of these unhappy events, but they can see that even here in Great Britain opinion is sharply divided.

And it would certainly seem that Nazi commanders on the Western Front, who might otherwise have been expected to go all out for daring counter-attacks, are now playing for time. They are fighting a war of attrition, giving ground, it is true, but defending every strong-point, every building, every yard of terrain stubbornly and as economically as possible.

This kind of warfare must in the long run cost the enemy more than it costs us. It is putting the German civilian population to fearful strain, for the fly-bombs and rockets which reach us are fleabites in comparison with the bombardment which the Reich has to endure by day and night.

All this must be as obvious to the enemy as it is to ourselves. And his tenacity in an otherwise disastrous position can only be explained by his renewed hope that we may yet throw away our military advantages by political blunders.

★

THE Premier's outspoken statement in Parliament in regard to the Russo-Polish situation offers no immediate hope of better understanding among "The Big Three."

On the contrary, Mr. Churchill admits it has not yet been possible to arrange any meeting of the three Great Powers, although he had confidently expected that there would be one before Christmas. He and Mr. Eden are still willing to meet their opposite numbers "at any place, at any time and under any conditions" which would be convenient.

Nothing could be fairer than that. A meeting in the near future appears to be essential to the continued unity of the chief Allies and we can be thankful that our own leaders, at any rate, are anxious to attend one.

It remains to add that the Russo-Polish deadlock is none of our making. We have, indeed, done our utmost to promote a better understanding between our friends. In Greece, unfortunately, though we *may* have acted with the best intentions, Britain has been forced to act upon her own responsibility.

More than one reader has reproached "Man o' the People" for his failure to come out with a forthright opinion about this situation.

He would, if he could, but if the Labour Party, darkly suspicious about the whole business, cannot make up its mind either to condemn the Government or frankly to approve it, how can an individual journalist, writing far from the scene of action, be expected to know the rights and wrongs of this complicated affair?

If was a relief to have Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour, come out boldly with the assertion that he accepts full personal responsibility for his share in the shaping of Government policy.

For he, too, might have "hedged." Instead, he has made it plain that he and his Labour colleagues in the Government are backing Mr. Churchill in his determination to restore law and order in Greece even at the cost of warfare with brave men who were recently fighting against the common enemy.

But this does not prove by any means that they and the Premier have acted wisely. And I must confess that I hold their policy the more in doubt because, so far, it has received approval from none but our most doubtful friends, Fascist Spain, Fascist Portugal and—the Hearst Press of America!

★

BEING naturally—and, I think, properly—anxious to avoid a political crisis until Germany is beaten, the Labour Party Conference did not commit itself to final judgment on the Greek question.

Instead, it called upon the Government to do its utmost to facilitate an armistice and to make a free, general election in Greece possible with a minimum of delay.

Once calm has been restored, a general election could be arranged, one would imagine, almost immediately. And, wherever there may be trouble in liberated Europe, it would surely be the best plan to put the matter to the vote as soon as possible.

In some cases it might be argued that no election could be fairly held while large numbers of the population are prisoners of war or detained by the Germans in their slave gangs of foreign labour.

> **THOUGHT FOR TODAY**
>
> *IF you lose your head the moment you have found your feet your gains are small indeed!*

But this seems a weak contention to your correspondent.

Indeed, when our own general election is held some time next year there are bound to be many British prisoners of war still in Japanese hands.

There is no reason to suppose that their views would differ from those of their comrades, for soldiers do not vote as soldiers; they vote as citizens. They are as little, or as much, interested in general politics as the rest of us.

Their only *special* concern is for the welfare of Service men and for their own future when they get back to Civvy Street.

★

SOME difficult questions are bound to crop up when demobilisation begins. One of them has been raised already by men discharged on health grounds and claiming their right to return to their former employment.

This right is legally established and must be jealously protected. And yet what is to happen to the office boy who wants to go back to his old firm after five years of war service?

An important test case of this kind was decided by the Manchester Reinstatement Committee last week. Robert William Thomas was a "junior assistant" when he joined the Army. Now he is 24 years old, married and a father.

His employers, Messrs. Roberts, Wood and Elva, of King-street, Manchester, offered him a job at £3 a week, but he did not think that was enough for himself and his wife and baby to live on. Nor did the Reinstatement Committee, which decided that his employers must pay him £4 10s. a week dating from the day of his discharge.

From the point of view of the young man concerned, this seems a reasonable decision, but it is only fair to mention that his firm contended that, owing to the war, its business was greatly restricted and, furthermore, that when its other employees came back it would not be possible to give them all a corresponding rise.

★

IN this connection I note with interest that the great Nuffield organisation has plans not only to take back all its Service employees, but also to make special opportunities for any of them who have risen to high rank.

Sir Miles Thomas, the vice-chairman, mentioned in a recent interview the cases of two young men, one of whom left the firm at nineteen and is now a staff brigadier at twenty-five. The other was an office boy when war broke out and now commands a squadron.

Both these young fellows must have displayed fine qualities of leadership and both will be given a chance to use the same qualities in their peace-time work.

This is certainly as it should be. Nevertheless, there were many sad cases after the last war of brilliant young officers who could not "make the grade" in civilian employment.

And it does *not* necessarily follow that a good soldier will make a good executive or even a good clerk. Probably, therefore, the solution to this particular problem may be to retain in our peacetime Forces as many able young men as possible, provided they *want* a Service career; to encourage the big firms to "try out" the others of equal ability; *and* to give State aid to the small minority who cannot conveniently be placed in civilian jobs to match their Service records.

Incidentally, some consideration must also be given to loyal workers, "reserved" by no choice of their own, and not deserving to be squeezed out or "de-moted" even when the fighting men come home.

It would not be fair for such men to feel that "they'll get no promotion this side of the ocean."

★

NO law; no system; no plan can be devised to provide for every individual case in a national emergency.

But wise and strong leadership should be able to prevent any widespread and general grievance. That is why "Man o' the People" feels so concerned at Lord Woolton's warning to the troops that they are not to expect enough houses to live in, either immediately, or even soon, after they have beaten the Nazis.

The plain truth is that the Government has not "had the guts" to tackle the housing problem as a matter of national urgency, ranking in importance only second to the achievement of victory.

★

WE are all grateful—Londoners particularly—to the fine and generous gesture of our American Allies, who have lent some 3,000 of their trained men to help in the clearing up of metropolitan bomb damage.

But the speed with which these good-hearted "doughboys" are getting on with the job, their technical efficiency, their lavish use of bulldozers, simply tends to spot-light the slow, laborious and antiquated methods of our own clearance gangs.

Let's face it: we are *not* tackling clearance and repairs as though our lives and happiness depended upon top speed. We have not got the necessary equipment and our general organisation is deplorably "patchy."

Officials talk of "planning" until one gets sick of the word. And White Papers flutter from Government Departments like flakes in a stage snowstorm. We are short of nothing but action; rich in good intentions, but barren in results.

Plans, as such, no longer impress me and White Papers leave me cold. What matters to you and me more than anything else is, firstly, that we should win the war without a day's needless delay or the loss of a single life in a vain cause; and, secondly, that we should lose no time in making this country, if not a paradise, at least a cheerful, happy and hopeful place to live in. And we shan't do that in time for the peace celebrations unless we "get a move on" now.

SECRET SERVICE NEWS

GESTAPO has been ordered to supervise shops and Christmas shopping all over Germany; unrest and demonstration by the population expected by Nazi leaders.

● Ex-Queen Ena of Spain, mother of pretender to Spanish throne, has flown from London to meet her son for consultations in Switzerland. Both expect to return to their country soon

● Nazi propaganda preparing German people for sudden reappearance of Hitler "in person." Belief in Allied quarters is that Fuehrer has now sufficiently recovered from grave illness to show himself in public.

● Position of Field-Marshal Keitel, Hitler's Chief of Staff, is in doubt. He may be replaced by notorious S.S. general.

● Vienna has been transformed into fortress. Military measures include deportation to Reich of unreliable workers.

● King Peter of Jugoslavia in centre of important political discussions taking place in London.

● Sensational developments expected in Northern Europe; public feeling in Sweden running high at reports that Germans withdrawing from Norway are scorching earth, leaving Norwegians destitute. Swedish Government expected to make important declaration.

● Mikolajsczik, ex-Premier of Poland, is going to Lublin, seat of the Soviet-controlled committee which claims authority over Poland. He is expected to join the committee and resolve the crisis which has darkened Allied relations.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO ENABLE SMOOTH RETURN TO LEGAL DUTCH GOVERNMENT WHEN FURTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY ARE FREED HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED.

● Political moves in Mediterranean contemplated to bring stability to this vital area. French, British, Turkish interests involved

● Hurried decision to utilise two darkest winter months for resumption of U-boat war against Allies in Atlantic has led to confusion in Nazi navy; submariners, directed to other services, cannot now be traced in time.

* * *

SPECIAL body to deal with starving European children, tens of thousands of whom are out of control, is being formed by Allied government. Measures will include training-camps, feeding, clothing.

● Change in Czech Government, preliminary to liberation of Czechoslovakia and return to native soil of administration, imminent.

● Mr. Stettinius, new U.S. Secretary of State, may visit London for first time in new capacity. Visit regarded as preliminary to new "Big Three" meeting expected in the New Year.

● Frau Himmler reported to have arrived in neutral country for "rest cure." Wife of the Gestapo leader is travelling under assumed name.

● New military move in China, following close on reconstruction of Chinese government, expected to end deadlock, remove from China peril of being cut in two by Japanese forces.

IT SEEMS TO ME

We Had To Fight For It!

IT IS ALL VERY WELL FOR REACTIONARIES OVER HERE TO DECLARE THAT THE PEOPLES OF LIBERATED EUROPE SHOULD KEEP CALM TILL THEIR NEW GOVERNMENTS ARE CHOSEN BY POPULAR ELECTION AT SOME UNDETERMINED FUTURE DATE. EVENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT THE FOOLS SOME FOLK WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE.

They know full well the forceful ways of persuasion and the walls of evasion they will surely have to face, and they are anxious to be up and doing now so that they will not be left as helpless as, say, the Spaniards are.

Of course, the normal British Diehard will try to make any listener believe that we have attained to our greater degree of self-government simply by waiting hopefully, as Micawber did, for something to turn up.

By Philosopher

In this he will be betraying either crass ignorance or deliberate forgetfulness of our history. The Parliamentary representation we *shall enjoy after Victory* has been wrung from old gangs of selfish interests, not in weeks, but through the course of hundreds of years, and not by waiting, *but by action and suffering.*

Look far back to the fourteenth century, when there was no popular franchise and the country was managed by a court clique and great landowners who never for a moment were capable of rising above the interests of their own classes.

The peasantry, existing in a state of poverty, and taxed mercilessly to support the extravagance of their rulers and a hundred years' war of aggression against France, were seething with discontent and demanding Governmental reform.

* * *

IN due course armed revolt broke out in various parts of the country—in Somerset, Yorkshire, Norfolk, the Home Counties....

In Kent insurrection was led by Wat Tyler, of Maidstone. The rebels marched on London, and, after a deal of violence and bloodshed, King Richard II was forced by the seriousness of the situation to meet Tyler at Smithfield.

In the heat of parley there, Walworth, Mayor of London, who was in the King's party, slashed Tyler from his horse with his sword and a squire finished him off with a dagger.

Richard, with extraordinary presence of mind, rode forward to the enraged rebel band gathered some distance away and shouted that now their leader was dead he himself would be their captain.

With the diplomacy worthy of a later age, he *conceded all their demands* and pardoned them graciously for their treason. Whereupon these satisfied sons of men who had fought at Crecy and fathers of others who later were at Agincourt dispersed to their homes.

WITHIN a year all the leaders of the revolt were taken by the King's barons and hanged.

Forget intermediate struggles for freedom, like the one against the dictatorship of the Stuart Kings and their quaint notions of Divine Right. Forget the American fight for Independence. Forget, and move on many, many years to the nineteenth century.

So late as 1819 you will find in supreme command a crowd very much like the old set of the Middle Ages, and nobody had put them there but themselves.

It has taken the whole of the past century, and more, to reduce their power to its present limited proportions, and that goes in a municipal as well as a national sense.

BUT, while and wherever they were losing ground, were those old-time rulers insistent on their "rights"! And were they tough in the insisting! They used weapons, legal and military, in ruthless fashion. They transported agitators to Australian prison hells. They imposed vicious terms of imprisonment at home. They....

Another instance. In 1819 poverty and agitation were again rife. Reformers in Lancashire announced a meeting in St. Peter's Field, Manchester, and in response—dressed in their best clothes, a third of them women, and including many children—a crowd of 60,000 people assembled.

Thereupon the Yeomanry got busy with *their* swords. Twelve people were killed and five hundred wounded.

The Government of the day thanked the local magistrates for their efforts in quelling the rebellion and had Henry Hunt and his fellow organisers thrown into jail.

Thus ended another incident —ironically referred to later as "the Battle of Peterloo."

No, sir. No one can reasonably blame the nations of Europe for being anxious about their prospects. They *are* much as our people *were* a hundred years ago.

CIGARETTE PAPERS —By The Lounger

THE people who are always telling us we must cut our coat according to our cloth are generally trying to cut down our cloth.

—oo—

TODAY'S PROVERB

Victory comes when quick decision
Boldly marches to the fore;
In the strife, just as in football,
It's the first-time shots that score.

—oo—

WISDOM WEEK BY WEEK

A candle that's alight is worth more than a searchlight that isn't.

—oo—

LITTLE ALFIE ON "THE TURKEY TROT"

THE turkey is a shy bird. Espeshly when controlled, Father says. In fact, he says, the averidge turkey is so sensative that, whenever it heers a controlled price mentioned anywhere it feels so embarased it disapears all together. But me and Horris have our hopes. Their's a turkey in the farmyard that we reckon won't let us down. And we think he's all right, becos we've had our eye on him for munths

Farmer Oates says turkeys are very dellicate creechrs, though I think their helth ort to be like evrybody else's in war-time, better than peece-time standards. And why shud their be a turkey shortidge, anyhow? Why shudn't thay keep up their egg-production figures. Don't thay know that hens are working so hard that they're laying dried eggs in there spare time?

Anyway, thay're very difficult to raise, Farmer O. says. In their chickhood, he says, thay suffer from chills colds and nerves. What thay seem to need is a National Turkey Meddical Service or maybe thay ort to join a Turkey Youth Movement to keep them fit and strong. But once thay get to the hobble-de-hoy state thay get tuff and go galumphing around like propper yung Naztis shouting: Goebbels, gurbles, gurbles!

But George, the one we have been keeping our eye on, is not like that. He is not truckulent like the others. I'm sure he won't be *tuff* on the day. He has a rather sad and thortful look, as if to say: "Ah, well, chaps, I'm like the Home Gard: I'll have a grand show on my last day!"

He's certainly going to have a lot of nice things deddicated to him; snowy white mashed pertaters, luvly round firm sprouts, lots of real sossidges, with ackshal meat in them, not to mention a gorjus Christmas puding with white sauce, plus mince pies galore. (But no lighted brandy, becos, as Father says, sackarsticly, although bottles of brandy are *orfly* eesy to get, we haven't any matches!) Anyway, whenever I think of all the luvly things all the turkeys are going to mix with, I feel like saying: "Oh, you lucky peeple!"

We'll have our Christmas dinner,
without much show or fuss,
And wish our fighting lads may
eat their next at home with
us!

TEN-SECOND TEASERS

1.—*Abbey in Notts; home of Lord Byron; colliery near by?*
2.—*Another abbey in Notts; in dukeries; seat of Duke of Portland?*
3.—*Kind of road; village in Somerset; makes boots and shoes?*
4. — *German poet and dramatist; notable figure in German literature?*
5.—*Kind of board; sort of colour; variety of hat?*
6.—*Sky; vault of heaven; referred to as "spacious"?*
7.—*Surroundings; external influences; important factor in life?*
8.—*Kind of rod; sort of line; type of net?*
9.—*English inventor; revolutionised spinning industry; invented spinning mule?*
10.—*Guide; agent; interpreter; for travellers in East?*
11.—*Armed fleet; armed force; six letters?*
12. — *Reduce; blot out; destroy; ten letters?*

(Answers in Page Five)

POSER:

THERE is a number which, on being diminished by 7, and the remainder multiplied by 7, produces the same result as if it were diminished by 4 and the remainder multiplied by 4. What is the number?

DID YOU KNOW—

TALIPOT PALM bursts into rare bloom when it is dying, about 60 years after being planted?

★ Slipping a key down the back to stop nose-bleeding is the relic of an old Norse custom connected with the worship of Thor?

★ John is the most popular Christian name throughout Europe, and has been for centuries?

★ There are more than 1,000 different species of frogs?

★ Bottled beer was first thought of by Doctor Newall, a Dean of St. Paul's?

★ Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society, formed in 1767, is oldest in world?

★ Tortoises and turtles have no teeth?

—oo—

Answer to last Sunday's poser: The time shown is 49 1-11 mins. past 12.

"LET US SEE IT OUT"

LET us see it out, however stern, this thing we have to do; whether it be an old hard task or one that is strange and new.

Whether it be a weary way which holds a secret dread; or whether it means to wear a smile when our heart its tears have shed.

* * *

LET us see it out, this thing we know to be both right and true; however much it costs us, and however long it takes to do.

However much it hurts us and goes against the grain; let us see it out and do our best, good deeds themselves explain.

* * *

LET us see it out, with Faith and Hope, two things that never fail; though all odds are ranged against us, and misfortune dogs our trail.

But no one goes alone, who strives to do the thing that's right, for Christ Himself Goes with them, and where Christ Walks—IT IS LIGHT.—J. M.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

There's no need to store it away; it'll be just as safe in daily use—if you clean it with smooth VIM

Coupon free—7d per canister
Does most household cleaning jobs except clothes washing

V 124-879-65 LEVER BROTHERS, PORT SUNLIGHT, LIMITED

Harriet Cohen
with the London Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by the Composer
Cornish Rhapsody. *Hubert Bath* DX 1171
(From the film "Love Story")

TUESDAY SERENADE—Valse Lente
The Light Symphony Orchestra
Londonderry Air. *Arr. Grainger*
Leslie Heward String Orchestra
DX 1174

HARRY DAVIDSON and his Orchestra
Old Time Dance Series—(No. 1)
The Lancers ("Heart of Oak—Lancers"); No. 2 Waltz—The Druid's Prayer - DX 1172-3

CARROLL GIBBONS and the Savoy Hotel Orpheans
I'll be Around } FB 3068
When they ask about You
Shine on Victory Moon } FB 3069
Let me love you Tonight

VICTOR SILVESTER and his Ballroom Orchestra
So dumb but so Beautiful } FB 3070
Time waits for no One
Give me the Stars } FB 3071
And then you kissed Me

COLUMBIA
COLUMBIA GRAPHOPHONE CO. LTD., HAYES, MIDDLESEX

During war-time your soft drinks have been produced under a nation-wide zoning system and sold under one label — the familiar S.D.I. label. When this war-time measure is no longer necessary and the Soft Drinks Industry can revert to its normal methods of production, you will be able once more to choose your favourite brand of minerals, squashes and cordials. Meanwhile you will be supplied with S.D.I. drinks as liberally as prevailing conditions permit.

S·D·I

CVS-26 The Soft Drinks Industry (War Time) Association Ltd.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stone's ORIGINAL Ginger Wine

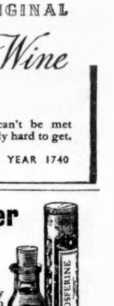
A big demand that can't be met Makes Stone's extremely hard to get.

FAMOUS SINCE THE YEAR 1740

A great deal better since taking Phosferine

"I am employed in a factory and for many months I had been feeling very much run-down and in a rather highly strung nervous condition. This I attributed to the indoor confinement, lack of fresh air and the long hours of work, but since commencing on Phosferine tablets I can truthfully say I am feeling a great deal better, and do not suffer from a loss of appetite, or from sleeplessness." (*Signed*) P. B., Glasgow

Get Phosferine from your chemist today!



PHOSFERINE
GREATEST OF ALL TONICS

Arms Flow From Underground

"THERE is little doubt that the major part of the enemy production of guns and armour is now coming from underground factories where work is unhampered by large-scale bombing. Only capture, or collapse of the German nation, can put these plants out of action."

ALLIES HOLD A TWIN KEY TO VICTORY

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE moment for the decisive assault on Germany is near. With Budapest encircled and Soviet spearhead driving for Vienna, the situation on the Eastern front has been transformed by the brilliant successes of the Red Army.

In the West American and British troops are lined along the Roer River ready to launch a massive thrust towards Cologne and the Ruhr. And Patch's threat in the South to Karlsruhe grows in intensity.

The coming battles, both in the East and West, will decide the issue, because they will contain Germany's last strategic reserves.

Not only that. The enemy will be deprived of the hope of manœuvring not only from one front to another, but even from one sector to another on the same front.

* * *

TWO aims must be realised by the Allies before the German fighting machine is smashed and written off.

(1) Penetration of German defences by concerted blows in the East and West, until the rear lines are completely broken;

(2) The effective containing and destruction of the reserves that still remain at the disposal of the German High Command.

This is the twin key to victory. Only by constant action on both fronts can the victory be quickly achieved.

The advent of winter sees all Allied arms in Europe engaged firmly and purposefully. Dittmar's opinion that "autumn operations would not be continued directly into the winter period" has been thoroughly proved wrong.

He argued that bad weather in west, fogs grounding aircraft, and the heavy clay soil of the lower Rhine and Lorraine would bring comparative immobility to operations.

These arguments were merely wishful thinking. The German generals know that they will be granted no respite; that the breathing space they had craved between now and the Spring will be denied them.

* * *

ECONOMICALLY, the loss of the occupied countries, especially France, must now be having an adverse affect on the Reich war potential.

Two years ago Germany's vast production centres ranged from the Pyrenees to the Caucasus and from Lapland to Egypt. Today war industry is compressed between the Rhine and the Vistula, Memel and the Danube.

As that area grows steadily smaller, it becomes ever more vulnerable to the gigantic air blows now smashing at German ports and cities, railways and lines of supply.

Much of the Saar valley is already in our hands. In the territory liberated by the Russians many industrial plants transported from Western Germany to the Anglo-U.S. bombing.

From France alone Germany last year was taking about 3,000,000 tons of iron ore, 400,000 tons of bauxite, the best in the world, 2,000,000 tons of iron and steel, great supplies of manganese and war material.

Here's expensive synthetic oil plants in the Ruhr and elsewhere have been blasted to rubble by our bombers.

* * *

YET, on the surface, the German machine is resisting strongly, at least so far as the ground forces are concerned. Our men fighting in the West tell of how artillery barrages.

Reports of new model 45-ton tanks in operation against the Americans reveal that the Reich industries themselves are still strong.

There is little doubt that the major part of the enemy production of guns and armour is now coming from underground factories where work is unhampered by large-scale bombing.

Only capture, or collapse of the German nation, can put those plants out of action.

* * *

Hitler's economic base has been badly hit, but it is far from being destroyed. All the ingenuity and effort of which the Hun is capable have been directed to the task of preserving the integral part of his heavy armament industry.

But what remains cannot turn out sufficient arms to contest the mounting strength of the Allies. In the coming battles German arms will be weighed and found wanting. So will the men who carry and use them.

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Gift To Much-Bombed Town

A GIFT of 2,000 toys and 20 cartons of candies for Christmas has arrived for Folkestone school children from the U.S.A.

The Mayor of Folkestone has sent a cheque for £500 to the crews of H.M.S. Folkestone and the tank Folkestone with the town's best wishes for Christmas.

Where Her Ignorance Was Bliss!

Wives in Court

I DON'T know who my husband was referring to when he said: "There is only one fool in the house and that is not me."

* * *

My husband has the complex that if everything went right life would be monotonous.

* * *

When I asked my husband to explain what riding the high horse meant he said: "You have been doing it for years."

* * *

I never leave anything to chance, so when my husband goes out I go with him.

* * *

The smile a man gave me when he passed my father's house was my undoing. I am now his wife.

* * *

And the Husband

I ADMIT I like a lot, but you wouldn't say I was selfish, but just that I had a hearty appetite.

Santa Claus Helps 'Bombed-Outs'

LORRY-LOADS of pots, pans, cups and saucers, carpets, clocks and other household effects arrived in Lewisham yesterday.

They were the gifts of housewives in York who had sent them under the W.V.S. scheme to help bombed-out people to start new homes.

Lewisham W.V.S. has compiled a list of the most deserving cases who will get priority.

The borough is said to be the first in the London area to receive articles sent by provincial towns which have "adopted" them.

7s. 4d. Toy Is Worth A Shilling!

A SHAPED piece of wood, presumably intended to resemble a dog, with bakelite wireless knobs as wheels, price 7s. 4d.—real value 1s.

A crude wooden model of a cat, fretwork-cut, with four pieces of dowelling as wheels, price 6s. 1d.: a wooden elephant with flapping ears and eccentric wheels of dowelling, price 10s. 1d. Real value of either not more than 2s. 6d.

These were samples of a collection of toys gathered by inspectors of the North Midland Regional Price Regulation Committee determined to make traders who handle trashy toys feel ashamed.

One of the most outstanding examples of exploitation, an inspector said last night, was a toy "seaport," consisting of a slender wooden base, two pieces of painted wood representing cliffs, and three small model ships, total value 1s. 6d., price 6s. 6d.

Also in the inspector's collection was a money-box which will not open, made from rough painted wood priced at 3s. 2d., the materials from which cost only about twopence; a child's sewing set, a wooden box containing mending materials, the current price of which is 2s. 3½d., whereas the Christmas price is 9s. 11d.

Because of the poor quality and high prices of Christmas toys, a Wimbledon store closed its toy department last night. The remaining toys will be sent to local hospitals for distribution.

Their Very Last Escapade

"Officially the Home Guard is dead, but they are rather reluctant to lie down," said a solicitor at Luton yesterday applying for a drinks licence for a Home Guard smoking-concert.

"We'll give them a final chance of getting away from the wife," commented the chairman, granting the applications.

MURDERER TO LIVE

William Joseph Stewart, of the Pioneer Corps, who was sentenced to death at Staffordshire Assizes for the murder in a Batley lane of Miss Laurie Grimsley, his fiancé, has been reprieved.

THE LOG AND THE LOVELIES

The Misses Naafi, at their Claygate headquarters, drag in the Yuletide log.

'Only Fools Work'

£100 AT CROWN AND ANCHOR

A FRENCH-CANADIAN soldier who appeared before a Bordon, Hants, court-martial yesterday said that he left camp with £100 which he had made by card playing and crown and anchor.

All the time he was away he lived on gambling in West End clubs and had rarely moved away from the West End.

He was Pte. Cyris Prescott Chirity, of the Regiment of De Maisonneuve, charged with being a deserter from February 3, 1943, and with escaping when in close arrest on December 4, 1944.

Prescott was wearing plain clothes when arrested on November 27 in a bombed building.

P.C. Thornley said that when Prescott was asked how he had managed to live for two years, his reply was, "It's only fools that work. Anybody with brains can get on without working."

The findings of the court will be promulgated.

Darby Kills Joan In Flight

DARBY and Joan lived together at London Zoo for eight years. But now Joan is dead—murdered by her mate.

Darby was a brown bear, and Joan his partner. They seemed a happy couple as they sat together on the Mappin Terrace or danced a jig to catch the eye of anyone with a bag of buns. They were known as the dancing bears.

One morning the keepers heard the sounds of strife and saw Darby and Joan locked in a fight. Before they could be separated it was all over and Joan lay dead.

Darby and Joan came to the zoo from Kurdistan as cubs in 1936, and were the only two bears to have flown in an aeroplane, making the last stage of their journey from Cairo to London by air.

POTATO SHORTAGE

The potato supply position has become more serious during the past week. It is many years since there was such an acute shortage a week before Christmas.

Merchants have been rationing their supplies to retailers, and some retailers have been restricting their sales to 2 lb. per customer.

"MULBERRYS" ON VIEW

The "Mulberry" exhibition of models of the giant prefabricated floating docks used in the invasion, organised by the War Office at Luton yesterday applying for a drinks licence for a Home Guard smoking-concert, Storey's Gate, was opened to the public yesterday.

'Padre Was A Shining Example'

"HE was a shining example of all that an Army Chaplain should be," says the citation accompanying the award of the Military Cross to the Rev. Paul Raymond Wansey, Chaplain to the Forces, of Malton, for services on the Italian Front.

The citation states: Following up the retreating enemy, the leading company of the battalion came under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire.

All efforts of the stretcher bearers to evacuate four wounded men lying in the open were frustrated by aimed enemy rifle and machine-gun fire.

Although he knew the situation, the padre drove the ambulance jeep up the road in full view of the enemy, and succeeded in evacuating the four casualties.

The Rev. Paul Wansey—a curate in Streatham before the war—is thirty-eight, and the eldest of four brothers, all Church of England clergymen, and the second of them to be awarded the M.C.—the Rev. Peter Nottidge Wansey won it in February, 1943, for gallantry in Tunisia.

Airman Fought On With Injured Eye

Hit in the eye over Berlin by flying glass from his bullet-shattered windscreen hood, a Cornish navigator saw that his pilot got free of an enemy fighter who came in six times to attack.

Then, with most of his equipment out of action after the tussle, he skilfully navigated the plane back home.

He was Flight-Sergeant Wallace Bernard Dale, RAFVR, of Camborne, who is one of two new D.F.M.s in the RAF awards announced yesterday (No. 934).

The list also includes eight D.F.C.s and one Bar to D.F.C.

MANCHESTER SAVED £193,000,000 FOR WAR

Manchester has raised £50,000,000 in "small" savings since the war began. The grand total of all war savings for the city is £193,000,000.

Croydon's war savings total £20,000,000.

ILLEGAL PROFITS HIDDEN AWAY IN COTTAGES

'Scrap All Bank-Notes To Beat Racketeers'

SPECIAL TO "THE PEOPLE"

HUGE hoards of Black Market banknotes are baffling the police. They are hidden away in bank vaults, safe deposits and country cottages which Black Marketeers have bought as storehouses for their hoards.

Parliament is to be asked on Thursday to stop this racket.

It will be urged by an M.P. to

Call in all existing bank notes, of all denominations, and make a completely new issue, of a different type, to frustrate these Black Marketeers.

Three kinds of racket have led to this hoarding of notes. They are:—

Continental money smuggling.—The black market in sterling is making fortunes for a powerful gang of racketeers.

Black market in goods on the British home market. This includes wines, spirits, silks, stockings, furs and jewellery, as well as many types of domestic articles.

Income Tax evasion.—Huge illicit profits are being hoarded in bank notes by people who fear that if they pay them into their bank account it will disclose their real income to the tax authorities.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had this proposal for calling in all banknotes before him for some days, and his experts are investigating its practicability.

He has been told that it succeeded in Belgium, where black marketeers found that the money was rendered useless overnight.

'Don't' For Christmas Shoppers

GOLDEN rule for women Christmas shoppers who are anxious to avoid being suspected as shoplifters was laid down yesterday by Sir Gervase Rentoul, West London magistrate. He said:—

"Women should not walk round big stores picking up articles here and there which they intend to pay for, because nothing is easier in these circumstances than to walk out inadvertently with an article for which payment has not been made.

"**Shoplifting is terribly prevalent these days, and the losses of the London stores run into thousands of pounds every year. They have to maintain large inquiry staffs to watch potential 'shoplifters.'**

"I need hardly say that any shopper who does walk out without paying is immediately under the gravest suspicion because one knows how widespread is this evil."

Daughter Of Earl Is Accused

ATTIRED in trousers, twenty-five-year-old Lady Carolyn B. D. Howard, daughter of the Earl of Carlisle, appeared at Bow Street yesterday.

She was accused of committing a breach of recognisances entered into in October.

Lady Carolyn was then bound over on a charge of drunkenness and was ordered to reside where directed by the court.

Woman P.C. Barker gave evidence of arrest and Lady Carolyn was remanded in custody till tomorrow.

FARM WORKERS' RISE

Holland (Lincolnshire) County Wages Board at Spalding yesterday agreed to an increase in the rates of pay for all male adult agricultural workers to 3s. per week.

The committee added that they could not consider increased rates for youths and women workers that day, but were prepared to hold a special meeting at the workers' request to discuss increases for these classes.

NON-STOP SAVINGS

Despite Christmas shopping expenditure, the figures for "small" savings rose last week to £12,922,640, of which £4,123,880 was from the sale of Savings Certificates.

TRIBUTE TO WINSTON

The "Winston" savings group of Edenbridge, Kent, formed as a tribute to Mr. Churchill, has collected £46,000 in war savings.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU!

"THE PEOPLE" has pleasure today in offering congratulations to the following readers on the occasion of their wedding anniversaries:—

DIAMOND.—Mr. and Mrs. E. Wild, Sweet Edmonton; Mr. and Mrs. C. Davis, Redhill.

GOLDEN.—Mr. and Mrs. Budd, Chobham; Mr. and Mrs. W. Chappell, Nailsworth; Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, Orrington; Mr. and Mrs. J. Peri, Harlesden, N.W.; Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer, Wimbledon.

SILVER.—Mr. and Mrs. E. Bridge, Streatham, S.W.; Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Edwards, Coventry; Mr. and Mrs. F. Fletcher, Stroud; Mr. and Mrs. C. Gibson, Goodmayes.

ALSO.—Mr. and Mrs. R. Liddell, Hailsham (34 years wed); Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Green, Kings (49 years); Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Brown, Bittingbourne (45 years).

Fort's 350 m.p.h. Hell Dive Over Germany

CAUGHT in the slipstream of another bomber over a German target, a Flying Fortress was sent into a tight spin. It then hurtled earthward in a five-turn "Hell dive" at 350 m.p.h.

Crews of other bombers watched with bated breath as the Fort plunged helplessly in evolutions which they expected to result in a mid-air break-up.

In the Fort itself centrifugal force pinned most of the crew against the sides of the bomber. Torn and twisted, the Fort suddenly levelled out at 8,000 ft. and then completed its bombing mission.

When later the plane reached its U.S. Eighth Air Force base in England, it was so badly damaged that it was sent to the scrap-heap.

The pilot, Second-Lieut. Fenzil Nasar, of Brookline, Mass., said he and his co-pilot, Second-Lieut. William V. Wilson, of Hawley, Minn., gained control of the corkscrew dive which strained wings and fuselage almost to breaking-point only by putting their combined weight on the left rudder. Had they used the stick" the wings would have been torn off.

As it was, the strain on the bomber caused rivets and struts to break and loosened part of the tail assembly.

HOME—BUT LOOTERS GOT IN FIRST

FAMILIES who have returned to Hastings after evacuation have found their entire homes looted. Many are faced with the "disappearance" of all their bedding.

These are only some of the returned evacuees' problems.

There is an acute shortage of houses, while in many instances there have been sharp rent increases which the homecomers allege represent an attempt by landlords to "cash in" on the house shortage.

Many of the families have been away for four years, and the shortage of household goods in the shops makes replacement of their lost possessions extremely difficult.

"The Government should arrange for more bedding to be stocked by the shops," one woman told "The People" yesterday.

Meanwhile, the local Citizens' Advice Bureau is advising people who have no homes to remain away until more bomb-damaged houses are repaired.

COLD SURPRISE FOR HUNDREDS!

Hundreds of spectators were drenched when a hose jerked itself out of a girl's hands during Fire Brigade competitions at the London Force headquarters, Lambeth, yesterday.

After a struggle, firemen managed to secure the snaking hose by one of the men lying full length along it.

'Ham And Flower Funerals' Criticised

PUTTING most of the blame for the high cost of funerals on the working class, Mr. George Gibson, of the T.U.C. General Council, said at Carlisle yesterday:

"People will bury their relations with ham, flowers and all the rest of it. Instead of this waste of money on the dead it would be better if it were spent on them when they were living.

"Twenty pounds should be sufficient to meet any funeral expenses," he concluded.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Issued by the Fire Offices' Committee as part of a National Campaign supported by Government Departments concerned

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

the best
IT TAKES 4 ENGINEERS TO WIN THE WAR—
THAT'S WHY SUNBEAM BICYCLES ARE SCARCE!

The same hands that have been fashioning Britain's war weapons with such devotion and skill will soon be making Sunbeam Bicycles again. When that time comes all the accumulated craftsmanship that served the nation so well, will once more go into the finest bicycle skilled craftsmen ever made. But you'll be lucky to get a Sunbeam now. The All-Black war-time model (with the little oil bath "missing") costs £9.12.1, including Tax. Put your name on your dealer's waiting list.

The Sunbeam Post-war Motor Cycle is something which thousands of enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting. It will be well worth waiting for.

HONESTLY—A BETTER BICYCLE
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How to get a MACLEAN SHAVE

1 Wet the beard thoroughly. 2 Put a little cream on your chin with finger tip. 3 Lather with plenty of water on brush.

Just try the quick lathering properties of Maclean Shaving Cream and notice its soothing effect on your skin. See how economical it is, too. A very little Maclean gives you the easiest, smoothest shave you ever enjoyed.

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LITTLE OLGA GETS CRACKING!!!

PEOPLE I WRITE ABOUT

By Peter Forbes

IT takes all types to make a world. If we all came out of the same mould Life would be a pretty dismal affair. But so often I have wondered why and how it is most folk seem either sublimely indifferent to, or just ignorant of, the breathless events which take place around them in their daily lives.

Don't get me wrong: war, personal heroism, even the wholesale destruction of man's handiwork, these things which sometimes must be enacted to *re-win* peace do not come into the question; no, I am concerned now only with individual domestic successes—sometimes failures—in the mighty battle of Life. Thus it be part of my task to seek out these stories of personal struggle.

A woman whose husband, a well-known British manufacturer, is doing his damnedest for the future welfare of British ex-Servicemen—in spite of the many obstacles of bureaucracy he looks like succeeding with his policy of "Service, NOT Sell"—this woman has written to ask me a leading question:

"Where on earth," she wants to know, "do you *meet* all these people you write about?" The answer is very simple: I meet them in the most *likely* places, places where you and I and the other man and woman live and work. For example....

Exactly when the Hobsons fell out of love is very difficult to say; perhaps their love still lives on. I believe it does....and yet,

"... the real basis of peace, of all that makes life worth living is in the home..."

Happy folk in a happy home, such as these, make a prosperous and contented nation.

broke the news, telling him to go home to Sally and see what he could do for her.... Over another cup of tea and stay with her, she herself would be back in the afternoon.

But Fred knew there was no more tea, no more sugar, no more milk in this squalid place they had been forced to call "home."

Unconsciously he muttered a prayer, prayer to high heaven that the baby might not live. His prayer was quickly answered. And the baby, a lovely little girl, was this spared the ordeal of drawing breath in the perpetual stench of a back room where sunshine and fresh air were strangers....

This sort of tragedy was happening up and down *the whole of Britain.*

The thin thread separating sanity from madness grows still thinner at such times....and they picked Fred out of a canal at midnight after the girl-baby was buried....

Maybe you are squeamish, not inclined to stomach a story like this story of Sally and Fred Hobson? I make no apologies. Or you may protest: "But THIS sort of thing could NEVER happen here!"

I reply: It DID. It happened so often, in so many different forms, after the last war; I am merely relating a record of events which struck not at one, but at thousands of homes in Britain.

Love's Young Dream

You see, when Fred Hobson was fifteen he got a job in a piece-work factory near Manchester, and there he met Sally, who was seven months younger, and they fell in love. They were married four years later.

For four all-too-long years, between them Sally and Fred saved precisely three shillings a week from their combined wages, a total of about £30.

They got a small house, one of a long row of regimented dwelling-places with lean-to backyards—but only by being "allowed as a special favour" to pay £5 "key-money."

The rent was twelve-and-six weekly. And so the Hobsons started to make a home. It sounds a simple job: in terms of mutual happiness it must be of a value beyond refined gold and gems.

Reduced to symbols of pounds, shillings and pence it can become a tremendous task, sometimes breathtaking, as thousands of us know only too well....

No longer able to work at the factory because her baby was about due to emerge into a world of such vast perplexity, Sally gave up her job, and the total income at once was reduced to £2 a week.

A few coppers in excess of eighteen shillings went every week in insurance, Fred's tram fares, rent, and "spending money," which never exceeded half-a-crown.

They called the baby Tom; they watched him slowly grow up.

Like most other British *working-class* women, Sally knew that the real basis of peace, *of all that makes life worth living,* is in the *home.*

Frugal And Happy

She knew that a nation with happy folk in happy homes is a prosperous nation; that was common-sense.

And no matter if she worked her finger-tips off seven days a week, providing Fred and the baby were happy and healthy.

Home and love and religion and thrift and loyalty and honesty and cleanliness....all these were part of the battle she fought as her child grew from year to year, and the fight was becoming increasingly exhilarating....*until....*

Tom was twelve years old when the second baby came. But a vast, a terrifying change had come over the Hobsons' life. The factory, with other factories, had been closed these past twelve months.

Tall chimneys were smokeless, unemployed men stood about listlessly in street corners pretending to God for work,—or just sinking slowly into that terrible state of apathy when nothing—not even Life itself—mattered any more....

The district nurse found Fred at the corner of the street and

home, and its setting is green countryside, across which electricity pylons stride with a fine disregard for the natural order of things.

I do not propose telling you what she does for a living—but it is useful work....though she gets paid little enough for it.

She was knitting some woollen garment; she allowed me to read one of many letters which have come her way for this voluntary task the so willingly took up:

"Will you please accept my humble thanks for the time you must have spent making the scarf I received last week. We in the British Liberation Forces cannot say how much we appreciate what has been created by women like yourself, and as the winter grows colder we shall remember these gifts we have received from the Mothers of Britain."

Unquenchable Hope

Sally said, wistfully: "I wish Tom could write me a letter like that...."

"Tom?" I queried.

"He was taken prisoner by the Japanese," she told me. "I believe he is among the British and Australian forced labour gangs who have been beaten and starved by their guards in the jungle, but whose spirit has never been broken.

"No, I'm afraid Tom would not welcome fancy scarves or gloves or Balaclava helmets where he is,...." She mustered a brave smile of her own. "Tea,....but then from the time he was a small boy Tom has had

something very precious, something which he—*which all of us* —can wrap around his body as protection from the injustices of Life.

"Like me, Tom has always had unquenchable HOPE. When he was a boy he knew the misery, the ugliness, the slow, moral decay of Life as Fred and I were forced against our will to live it.

"But his young body, like mine, refused to accept it all; his spirit fought a winning battle against apathy, which comes to regard misery merely as a symbol of power in life.

From the time Fred died I taught Tom that money, as a symbol, means not just material achievement, but success in the chosen way of life; Life that is of the heart and the soul as much as of the body.

"I taught Tom that God gives the simple man a simple inheritance, just as He gives the obscure mothers, like me, the fulfilment, the satisfaction of their natural destiny.

"But Fred was a man, and no man can understand the anxieties a woman suffers during her life. I could never think of Fred in any other way than I used to think of him during those four long years we scraped and saved together to make a home.

"We had our ideals, but my ideal was a personal one, which I could never get Fred fully to share with me. There was joy and health in my life until the Urge to have a child and I convinced myself that these two qualities bred Hope, that Hope *was* Life—that Vision gave me the ability to see the beauty of the Future.

The Battle Of Life

"And even though that beauty was disguised *through no fault of our kind,* my Hope was unquenchable. That was the only real difference between Fred and me. He died because he lost all hope. I never ceased loving him. But Fred ceased loving life...."

And so I had met someone else in a true friend; someone, a mother, within whose heart Hope will always win the battle of Life. That much I know to be true.

I know, also, though I can give no reason for my faith, that her son will one day be restored to her from the tortures of the damned, and will go onwards with his mother fighting the mighty battle of Life, armed such as all of us *could* be armed *if we so wished*—with eternal, unquenchable Hope.

And Hope, with Faith and Courage, can do and overcome the greatest, the most bitter obstacles man creates and erects against man.

The Bravest Coward I Ever Knew

WAR plays skittles with our sense of proportion. It scatters some of our perceptions. It makes us a little crazy sometimes. Last Thursday, in the Strand, I met an old friend whom I had not seen for more than half a dozen years. He was looking very glum, and, when I asked him why, he said he was simply fed up with things in general.

We looked along, one evening, all the life seemed to have gone out of the man. One of our bombers passed, flying low. My friend cringed, and then when he was assured that it was one of ours, he drew a long, shuddering breath, laughed with relief, and afterwards laughed in a shamefaced way and said:

"I am a horrible coward. The fact of the matter is, my nerves seem to have gone all to pieces.

I get so scared that I'm ashamed of myself. Old women and children seem to have more nerves than I. Every time a motor-car backfires I jump out of my skin.

"I lie awake at night listening, and trembling from head to foot every time I hear an aeroplane buzzing over. I don't know what's come over me. And yet I went right through the last war; I have been under some really shattering bombardments. I didn't lose my nerve at Bapaume; I've led a bayonet charge with the fag-end of a platoon, and wasn't particularly frightened.

"Yet these things Jerry is throwing over seem somehow to have found a raw point in my nervous system. Here am I, an old soldier who has given and taken plenty of hard knocks, scared by the noise of planes and flying-bombs. What makes me like it? Am I going mad or something? "

TRICKS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

I said, of course, that a little fear is nothing to be ashamed of, as long as a man didn't let it affect his manhood. All living creatures know fear; I have met most of all. Only man fights fear.

I told him that I knew a V.C. who was subject to fits of shivering panic at the sight of a spider, and a woman who had fought the whole German Army single-handed for the sake of her husband, but had hysterics when, by accident, she trod on a cockroach.

Again, I know a submarine Commander who is one of the real heroes of the war under the water, who would do tasks that would blind panic if he finds himself high up on a roof or a precipice.

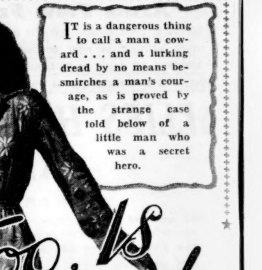
And I told my acquaintance who has the heart of a lioness and nerves of steel is overcome by fear when she finds herself alone on a dark staircase.

Our nerves, I said, play us queer tricks so that we may not be a lurking dread by no means besmirches a man's courage.

FUSSY AND VERY FINICKY

For example, there is the strange case of Mr. and Mrs. C.:

They were the most gentle and timorous couple I have ever met. I used to laugh at them for their timidity. Before venturing out into the open air they would



wrap themselves up to the eyes. They lived in constant fear of draughts, dogs, fire, burglars, colds in the head, thunderstorms, and motor-cars.

Before picking up a kettle of boiling water Mr. C. would protect himself with a kettle-holder an inch thick. If he pricked his finger with a pin he bathed it for half an hour, in case of blood-poisoning.

He was a book-keeper in a shipping office; he had worked there for more than thirty-five years and might have bettered himself if he had not been fearful of taking a chance and making a change. He was afraid of everybody, and shook with fright at the very idea of his master's displeasure.

Having read that crowded kitchens are full of germs, he stopped going to the pictures. He really was, I thought, the most despicable little coward on earth, and very properly married to his female counterpart. It was a agony to get them in the wilderness of their fear. I need scarcely say that I was very young and intolerant then—a most unpleasant young man. I rented a room in their house.

It appeared that Mr. C. was even afraid of the postmen. He would wait, with indescribable trepidation until he heard the familiar footsteps and catch the letters or packages on the doorstep. I used to chaff him about this. "Mr. C., I believe you're getting love letters from some glamorous chorus girl."

He would say, "Oh, the sort, I assure," he would say, taking me seriously.

I was only joking, of course; he was not that kind of man.

He was absurdly particular about his food, but ate practically nothing in any case. I used to him once that one might imagine he was living in a nest of pigeons. A little milk, a bit of egg, and he was full. He told me

No, whatever you may have read, the conference did not back Churchill. That was a misrepresentation by newspapers that used to praise Hitler and back Mosley.

Arthur Greenwood, the Leader of the Opposition, who proposed the resolution, called the situation "horrifying, appalling and dangerous," but insisted that the Labour Party should not exploit it. James Griffiths, who closed the debate, pledged his colleagues to insist on an immediate General Election and fair election and the establishment of a strong democratic system.

WOULD WINSTON WELCOME A SPLIT?

ANEURIN BEVAN, who called Ernest Bevin's speech "garbled and inadequate where it was not dishonest," got, by far the loudest applause from a conference obviously disgusted with the situation in Greece and all that had led to it.

But what could the conference do? It was useless venting its anger over the shooting; but it could not precipitate a crisis over that, or the no-it-faced.

I hear, in high-up Parliamentary circles, that Churchill would welcome a split which Labour was forced to leave his Government—and take the blame for "splitting the country."

Anyway, the Socialists were in a position aptly put by no less a D. N. Pritt, M.P. " Considering they were sitting on a razor's edge," he said, "it is a wonder they did not cut their buttocks."

Well, the Government has had its worst. No important party support, right across Europe, those monarchists, ex-Fascists and collaborators who, nearly as much as Hitler and his gang, were responsible for the war.

Why, already Greece is toppling to his fall—as did Mihailovitch, Peyrouton, Badoglio and the rest. All are finally collapsing.

They know nothing of the new Europe now in process of birth. They make contacts with a "Society" that no longer means anything.

As Hannen Swaffer Sees It

The reply from General Sarafis, the commander-in-chief of the ELAS forces, was this indirect reference to our Government:

"You are continuing the occupation of Greece, supporting the Germans and treating Greece in a similar fashion, ignoring her sacrifices and her struggle to-day. All free men are solidly behind the struggle of Athens.

"We intend to continue struggle until the necessity ceases, until, comprehending your historic responsibilities, you revise your decisions and cease your attacks, in order to make possible the creation of a real national government guaranteeing free fulfilment of the people's will in accordance with the Atlantic and Teheran agreements.

"It is regrettable that battles have taken place, in Athens, between the Greeks and the British. The struggle being waged today is not an Anarchist struggle but one of free men who seek the liberty, freedom and independence. For a month and more we have made it clear in every manner that we desire to restrain any attempt to impose a dictatorship by force of arms."

Then, as the tragedy became the pitiful tragedy, there came this letter, sent by air mail to London, by a British officer, one of the remnants of our gallant armies who went into Greece to save her when the Germans were at her gates:

"I am writing to you from the mountains of Greece. I do not know the reason for the bloody mess in Athens. But here, in the country, the people are happy, celebrating their freedom—and they are all behind ELAS, however you may not return to England, you will know for what cause I died."

LABOUR PARTY IN A DILEMMA

When, last-named has declared that the Resistance groups, and not he, should lay down policies for the future.

Then the "Times" printed these all-important words:

"The National Provisional Government of any liberated country, in justice and expediency alone, must be built around the active and mostly turbulent resistance movement which had kept the flame of nationhood alight under enemy occupation, privation and terror.

"It will surprise most of my readers to learn that the man in command of the resistance in Athens is General Mantakas, the Cretan who organised the resistance against the Germans in Crete, and a man who, because of his gallantry, was "mentioned" several times by the British Army in Egypt. In 1944 he returned to the Greek mountains and stayed there until the liberation. Now he is the leader of the Athens organisation which is called "a lot of gangsters."

You heard them called, in the B.B.C. news last week, "rebels", "rebels" "rebels" "rebels."

WHAT THE "REBELS" TELL THE WORLD

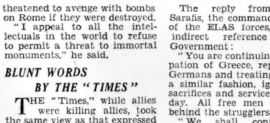
MEANWHILE, wireless appeals continued from Athens. America published them day after day. Why were they not printed here?

The British Government insisted on a humiliating surrender.

"We will not negotiate till the first shot stops," replied ELAS, the Greek resistance army.

So, hour after hour, allies fought allies.

In one sensational broadcast, Professor Georgalas, a distinguished writer who is a member of the Academy, accused the British of having guns in the Acropolis, the very ruins we



As Hannen Swaffer Sees It

threatened to avenge with bombs on Rome if they were destroyed.

"I appeal to all the intellectuals of the world to refuse to permit a threat to immortal monuments," he said.

BLUNT WORDS BY THE "TIMES"

THE "Times," while allies were killing allies, took the same line that appeared in the Labour Party's resolution.

It said that the essentials of settlement were embodied in "the accord which General de Gaulle has concluded, after negotiated, speaking to all the intellectuals of the world to refuse to permit a threat to immortal monuments," he said.

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It said that the essentials of settlement were embodied in "the accord which General de Gaulle has concluded, after negotiated, with the French Resistance, and the agreement announced between Marshal Tito and the Jugoslav Government"—that is the de Gaulle and the Tito Agreement, for long, we have down"—and the principles laid down by the Premier of Holland."

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This Too, Is Courage!

Says

PIERS ENGLAND

IT is a dangerous thing to call a man a coward . . . and a lurking dread by no means besmirches a man's courage, as is proved by the strange case told below of a little man who was a secret hero.

"It's my stomach."

"Indigestion?"

"Oh, no, she knows all about that—I've had indigestion all my life. It's rather worse than that."

"A gastric ulcer?"

He was evasive. "No, not that either. I could probably tell her about a gastric ulcer without upsetting her too much."

"What is it, then?"

"You swore not to tell, remember."

"I always keep a confidence."

"I'm sure you do. Still, I wouldn't tell you....only I should hate to create a false impression. You see, sir, the trouble with me is that I've got an incurable cancer of the stomach."

I can never hear of that frightful disease without a thrill of horror, I said: "But can't you do anything about it?"

"I've been to specialists. They don't hold out much hope. I've been trying some patent medicines. It wasn't love letters I was waiting for on the doorstep. It was medicine."

"But doesn't it hurt you like hell?"

"Well, it does rather."

"Wouldn't it be better to tell your wife about it? She'll have to know something."

"Oh, she needn't know for a year or two yet. She's very happy as she is now. What good would it do if she knew?"

"But I hate the idea of you walking about with a thing like that."

He smiled wryly and said: "It makes it so much nicer to get home again."

And that was all. Poor little man. He died eighteen months later, and his wife never knew because, to the end of it, she died two months before. And it seems to me that this shy, timorous, ill-dressed little man who suffered the agonies of the damned without a murmur and walked three miles while a cancer ate him up—who kept silence in hell for the sake of his wife's feelings—he was the bravest man at that we have seen on a human countenance: he looked more like a half-starved kitten than a man. At last he said: "I'm not leading a double life—not in the way you mean. I know I'm supposed to be at work, but.... will you give me your word of honour not to tell?"

"Of course I will."

"You mustn't tell my wife, not on any account. You don't know how she worries about me. You'd never believe how she takes things to heart. The fact is that I haven't got a job any more."

"Do you mean to tell me they gave you the sack after all these years?"

"No, I had to resign because of my health. I couldn't work any more. I was more nuisance than use. I was worth about the office. So they pensioned me off: half-salary. But I can't very well tell Mrs. C. about it. She's not very well herself. She suffers so much with her nerves. So I go out and pretend I'm going to work, and come back again, and that's all there is to it."

"What do you do with yourself all day?"

"It's a fine day I sit in the park. You mustn't imagine that I go about enjoying myself. If it's raining I go to a reading room and read a book or a newspaper; or perhaps I go to one of the museums."

"But tell me, what is wrong with you?"

Buns for the Boys

GUINEA A TASTE

By "HOUSEWIFE"

ALL the boys and girls like buns. And it is your family favourite we want to know about. A guinea will be awarded to the sender of each bun hint or recipe published. Write on a postcard, with your name and address at foot, and send to Housewife, "The People," Acre House, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, to arrive not later than December 20. Here are last week's mincemeat prizewining winners:

WARTIME MINCEMEAT

ONE large swede (boiled and chopped fine), ½ lb. sultanas or currants, ½ lb. dates or figs (chopped fine), 1 lb. apples (chopped fine), 2 tablespoonfuls marmalade, 1 tablespoonful lemon flavouring, 2 tablespoonfuls golden syrup, ½ lb. suet or margarine or lard. Mix well with a wooden spoon.—Mrs. Forrest, 9/37, New Spring-st., Birmingham, 18.

WITHOUT SUET

HALF-POUND each of sultanas, dates, apples and prunes, the last named stoned and cooked; put through mincer, mix together, add two tablespoonfuls marmalade, quarter grated nutmeg and one teaspoonful spice, mixed with juice from prunes and 6 oz. of sugar.—Mrs. E. Barker, The Forge, Duck End, Stebbing, nr. Chelmsford, Essex.

FROM A FRENCH CHEF

FOUR lb. cooking apples, 2 lb. mixed fruit (sultanas), 1 lb. dates (stoneless), ½ lb. beef suet (mince all well). 1 large teaspoonful salt, ½ teaspoonful ground ginger, ½ lb. sugar, grated rind and juice of 2 oranges, large tablespoonful marmalade, 1 large tablespoonful golden syrup. Stir well and if liked.—Chas. E. Corbett, 41, Alcester-rd. Moseley, Birmingham, 13.

"THE PEOPLE" PAPER PATTERN SERVICE

No. 808.—GIRL'S FROCK

HERE'S a little girl's frock with attractive square neck and short sleeves. Perfect fitting bodice and flared skirt. Pattern available in sizes 4-5, 4-6 and 6-8 years. Size 4-6 years takes 2½ yards 36-in. material.

Paper pattern No. 808, with diagrams and full instructions for making, up, price 1½d. from "The People" Paper Pattern Service, "Columbine," South-gate Road, Reading, Berks. price 1½ d. Size required. Name and address in BLOCK LETTERS. Retain sketch for reference.

LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS

"PROMISES"

By the People's Friend

accused them of being liars or deceivers.

* * *

YET isn't that what they are? Isn't it deceitful to make grand promises which you don't keep? Isn't it a lie to say "I promise," when you know you do not mean it?

And more than this, to break a promise is cruel. Each time you do it you shatter someone's illusions, destroy something precious—their faith in human nature.

* * *

SOMETIMES it may not be easy. There is often a temptation to avoid a difficult situation by making an empty promise—but that is the coward's way out.

Be a man—or woman—of your word. If you make a promise, pledge yourself to keep it, and count yourself that much in debt until it is fulfilled!

KEEP your promises! It you cannot—then don't make them, for broken promises and broken hearts are never far apart.

It's so easy to make a promise and then forget. That's just the trouble. People do it every day—people who would be indignant if you

LYNDOE TELLS YOU—

BEFORE this week is through some idea of Himmler's unenviable dilemma will be gained. Talk of his "powers" is nonsensical. He is merely the caretaker for the financial thugs who will in any event pull their profits out of this war. Imminent failure will put him in the discard.

Meantime enemy losses mount. It can be said that between now and January 14 the figures, military and civilian, outmatch any computation for modern warfare.

And by that date the reaction in Germany will have initiated the dissolution which will constitute history's greatest problem so far.

It will also bring to a head a crisis in power politics with ter-

* * *

THESE are not isolated cases. The crisis I foresaw months ago is now hitting Spain. Incidentally, the civil strike now men is trying to avoid seems almost inevitable. A fortnight's preparation for blow-outs leading to a stoppage. Latin like.

There you have the course set in the coming month. We caught underground tactics to millions of Nazis. We have them to secure very different ends than, as I pointed out at the time, were ever envisaged.

The reaction from Nazism will be violently Left and of long duration.

Strange (and at present unbelievable) parallel will be seen in the Far East. We have reached the opening of a phase wherein both the Japanese and

* * *

BACK of these Oriental events is unremitting Russian foresight. While Big Business in the West haggles about who is to have what, the Kremlin patiently awaits the explosion which 500 million slaves will cause. At the appropriate moment in 1945 Russia will step in and end old scores.

It is incredible that, at the very moment of this changing tide, nobody is looking ahead or talked as though China had no title to her position as one of the Big Four.

But a statement made here seven years ago will be heavily justified possibly as soon as next year, by gigantic events.

That statement put facts we should not be afraid to repeat now. (1) That Japan would fail; (2) That China would survive as a Great Power and (3) that harmony with Soviet Russia; (3) That a

* * *

What does all this mean to you and to me? That the war has proceeded upon a certain point of advantage to postwar plans mooted. That totally new men are everywhere on their way to leadership. That the world's Old Gang faces destruction. And that startling changes electrify 1945.

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YOUR BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

TODAY.—Unsettled conditions, particularly in business. Play for safety. Avoid speculative interests at stake. Changes disappointing. Make the life serene to be much happier.

TOMORROW.—Any indication of financial crisis if you attempt ambitious schemes for making a fortune. Relations with others need care.

TUESDAY.—Opportunities good for care in dealing with £ s. d. Changes likely to be lucky if they are associated with private life.

WEDNESDAY.—Successful year, with no signs of difficulties. Financial

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK you can have a copy of your complete Month-by-Month Record for your birthday month—be it December 1945 (over 3,500 words!) by sending 4d ONCE (sufficient with S.P.O. for 2d. State name (Mr., Mrs. or Miss), full postal address, date of birth, and send to Edward Leslie, c/o "The People" Dept. B, 114, Strand, London, W.C.2.

tion healthy. Signs of more activity than usual in investments available.

THURSDAY.—Expenditure heavy, but of losses due to speculation. In respect to expenditure favourable to private activities best.

FRIDAY.—Coming yourself with similar activities. Take steps to safeguard £ s. d. Profits like may be disappointing. Need for tact in dealing with others.

SATURDAY.—Changes helpful, but for minor ones in dealing with others. Principal benefits associated with home life.

* * *

HOW WILL ALL STAND THIS WEEK

Look for your birth date below to find your section!

MARCH 21 to APRIL 20.—Tuesday the most helpful day of rather irritating week. Tomorrow and Thursday should be spent quietly. £ s. d. unfavourable for careful cases.

APRIL 21 to MAY 20.—Decisions should be made as early in week as possible. Signs of favourable developments in business. Wednesday best day.

MAY 21 to JUNE 20.—Early part of week favourable. Other people helpful. Wednesday and Thursday important activities.

JUNE 21 to JULY 20.—Tomorrow best for financial transactions. Tuesday day for changes.

LYNDOE'S YEAR BOOK FOR 1945

LYNDOE'S YEAR BOOK FOR 1945, 3d. post free, from Edward Leslie, c/o "The People," 114, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Wednesday you should be able to push on with 224th. Second half of week less favourable.

JULY 21 to AUG. 22.—Encouragement than average care in making plans tomorrow. Situation seems more favourable by Wednesday.

AUG. 22 to SEPT. 22.—Disappointments at beginning of week—many due to misplaced confidence in friends. Concentrate on Wednesday for matters of importance.

SEPT. 23 to OCT. 22.—Early part of week better. Avoid risks. Tuesday and Thursday are signs of unexpected developments. Keep to routine.

OCT. 23 to NOV. 22.—Select Tuesday for dealing with matters of importance. Rest of week unsatisfactory.

NOV. 23 to DEC. 21.—Maximum caution essential tomorrow. Overconfidence may lead to crisis in current business.

DEC. 22 to JAN. 19.—First half of week helpful, although there may be minor upsets. Tuesday best day for making major promotions.

JAN. 20 to FEB. 19.—Favourable developments due Tuesday. You can look forward to improvement in general and private life.

FEB. 20 to MARCH 20.—Tomorrow likely to be trying owing to heightened sensitiveness of others. Decisions due be postponed.

ANSWERS TO TEASERS

(See Page Two)

Nostrand: 4, Holmes; 3, Street; 5, Goethe (1749-1832); 2, Straw; 6, Fumas; 1, Tennyson (1809-1892). Penguin: 7, Samuel Crompton (1753-1827); 10, Dragoman; 11, Armada; 12, Anchilus.

SOME JUMPING TRAINERS DON'T STAND A HOPE

By LARRY LYNX

I HEAR that a few more trainers intend to apply for licences under National Hunt rules. Fact that they can find owners willing to send them a horse or two says much for the enthusiasm of those who have taken an interest.

With one day's racing a week, it stands to reason that the average patron of a small stable can have small hopes of making ends meet. Actually there are 28 fixtures scheduled from Boxing Day until March 31, and, providing that it is not necessary to abandon any meeting owing to climatic conditions (the optimistic viewpoint), something less than 200 races will be decided.

Set-aiming for these prizes will be, perhaps, 116 trainers. Names of 111 licensees who have already received National Hunt licences appeared in the first list issued by Messrs. Weatherby.

Figuratively speaking, this gives them less than two races apiece.

But of course it won't work out like that. Certain trainers will regard themselves as unlucky if they don't win at least half a dozen races before the season closes. Some of them train for gambling owners who tell them to go to Hades if the money at the expense of the bookmakers. This type of owner will no doubt show a profit on balance.

Majority of the races so far announced are £100 to the winner, £20 to the second, and £10 to the third. There will be few over-the-value of the Herne the Hunter Chase at Windsor on Boxing Day, a 400 sovereigns affair in which the winning owner will draw £280, the owner of the runner-up £80, and the owner of the third £40.

All the Windsor Christmas Day New Year programme on January 6 is on a lighter scale. There is a £250 steeplechase and a hurdle-race of a like value, but the prize money for the Gloucestershire track has always been generous.

In fairness to owners who have skilled or handsomely-rich trainers I hope the National Hunt Stewards will be able to persuade the Government to permit the Jockey Club to stite mid-week fixtures for any meeting which have to be abandoned because of bad weather.

An announcement on this vital matter would be welcomed by owners and trainers alike.

Climatic conditions in this country have always affected jump-

THERE will be no substituted races from the 1945 Derby and the four other classics. The Jockey Club Stewards have announced that the original entries, made in 1943, will stand wherever the races are decided.

ing. A break of three weeks was no uncommon thing, and I can remember Sir Abe Bailey's Jubilee Year has lasted much longer.

We had an experience a few years ago at Cheltenham when a sudden fall of snow stopped racing almost at the eleventh hour. The meeting was postponed from one day until after motoring to the course from Cirencester on the Wednesday and finding it was impossible to do anything to do was to return home.

In pre-motoring days meetings were seldom successful, but things are different now, and it would surely be possible for clerks of courses to give early notifications to owners and trainers, and the public as well, that their services were fit for racing.

When the National Hunt Stewards met last week it was announced that the Duke of Norfolk had an allowance of 6 lb. a mile would be made to owners by the duke towards half the cost of transport of horses to race meetings up to a maximum of 100 miles (50 miles out and 50 miles home). This temporary measure is much appreciated by owners.

* * *

His New Cue

Cleared The Table

BACK in 1937, billiards and snooker master Sidney Smith lost his favourite cue, and since then he has been looking for one to take its place. It seems his search has ended, for playing with a likely-looking new cue the other day he registered breaks of 136 consisting of 10 blacks, 3 pinks and 3 blues, and all the colours.

Sidney says this is the third time in his career he has taken all the balls in a break, and the second-highest he has ever made. His highest was 141 in an exhibition game.

To-day he plays a break with so little practice looks well for Sidney when we get back to pre-one-time match play.

Duffy Is No Duffer

By RINGSIDER

THEY breed 'em tough in the Navy. Ask Hitler—ask Scotland. Jack Duffy, for instance. Quite a nice fighter to watch: one who can take it on the chin and come back for more. Yet he somehow seems to fall just short of championship class. Perhaps that is why we left out Jackie Paterson, Scotland's pride!

Duffy has plenty of other good points to his credit, including those of perfection. He is a Glasgow Irishman. Tomorrow night he hopes to add another when he meets Tommy Gilmour, of Nottingham.

Jack Cappelli's new venture at the Albert Hall, Ibrox Theatre, Stobs Newington, tomorrow evening is going to be a night out Nottingham for most people.

Tommy's main pill is a smashing set-to between Al Phillips and Dave Crowley, who fought a terrific fourth fight in ten days, during which he also stopped Ginger Wilson, drawn with Syd Worgan and beaten by Jimmy Walsh. Like other hand, Crowley recently defeated Worgan, so the Phillips fans may be right.

Worgan himself is paired with Jack Hyde, another Ibrox theatre. Both Newington, tomorrow evening is going to be a night out Nottingham.

Jack Cappelli's new venture at the Albert Hall, Ibrox Theatre, Stobs

Yanks Firmly Ashore At Mindoro

ROCKET SHIPS BLAST WAY FOR U.S. INVADERS

From JOHN LEONARD, Reuter's Special Correspondent
Aboard Rear-Admiral Stuble's Flagship, off Mindoro Beachhead (delayed).

HERALDED by an unholy display of high-explosive rockets from numerous L.C.I. rocket ships and a brief artillery bombardment from destroyers, General MacArthur's troops made their second Philippines invasion assault less than 30 minutes ago on three beaches about two miles off our starboard bow. They went ashore without opposition.

The arrival of our convoy at Mindoro marks the northernmost and deepest American penetration of enemy-conquered territory in the Pacific.

Only 40 minutes' flying time from Luzon, this assault against the island flank of Manila Bay is vitally important to the whole Pacific strategy.

The audacity of this move into Mindoro is underlined by the fact that the U.S. Seventh Fleet took their vessels about 600 miles through Far Eastern seas nominally controlled by the enemy.

The great armada skirted the shores of numerous Japanese-held islands, with air bases numbered in scores and harbouring at least 500 planes which might have wreaked costly toll among our ships.

General quarters sounded at 5.50 a.m. today, and at 6.55 the rocket ships moved into position near the shore, while APDs—fast, small troop transports—unloaded the assault troops into small landing craft.

At that moment our warships opened up on seven Japanese planes trying to sneak in from the south. Six of them were shot out of the air.

Within two hours of landing the assault forces and supplemental waves of troops accomplished the first phase of the invasion plan.

Despite the lack of opposition, the landing was a spectacular sight. Scores of naval guns thundered from all points of the compass. Explosions flashed ashore on and around targets.

To starboard of this flagship a string of small landing craft headed towards the beaches, while to port several destroyers stood in close loosing broadsides.

Ten minutes later all aboard yelled joyfully as the rocket craft let loose their missiles. Great "whooshes" were followed by the continuous earth-shaking thunder of the rocket explosions, which covered hundreds of yards of the beach-head.

At 7.30 a.m. precisely the troops went ashore under an air cover by Thunderbolts and Lightnings.

Latest reports of the landing, quoted by the Exchange San Francisco correspondent, say that the Americans have advanced a mile inland against weakening Japanese resistance, but that in view of the proximity of Manilla, the Japs are expected to make a sharp come-back.

Hitler Didn't Back Hess Flight Here

LOUIS LOCHNER, chief of Associated Press Berlin Bureau from 1928 to 1941, said in a dispatch from London tonight: "Rudolf Hess, contrary to opinion which I found almost universally accepted in all parts of America, came to Britain without the knowledge and approval of Adolf Hitler, on a self-styled 'mission of humanity.'

"This clarification of a moot point came categorically and unequivocally but reluctantly from a high British Government source," stated Lochner.

Further comparison of data available to Whitehall with circumstantial evidence disclosed to American correspondents stationed in Germany at the time of the Hess flight further established that Hitler's long-time secretary and later Deputy Fuehrer was inspired and backed by Professor Karl von Haushofer, expert on geopolitics, and Willy Messerschmitt, builder of Germany's best fighter planes.

"Efforts to see Hess, whom I knew well in Germany, failed on the grounds that the Hess chapter is now closed, but authorities intimated that a further reason lies in the fact that he now is a crackpot who probably would not talk coherently if interviewed.

"I was informed that he has considerable latitude of movement—under guard, of course—to take strolls and enjoy the air.

"It is rumoured that he is held somewhere in Wales, but officials declined to confirm that."

The dispatch said that "Hitler, in May, 1941, after successes in the West and the Balkans, and after observing Russia's poor showing in the first Finnish war, was so certain that Germany could lick the world that he saw no reason then to offer peace to Britain."

But both von Haushofer and Messerschmitt knew, Lochner added, that Germany could not fight in the East, West and South, and Hess's flight to Britain and his "peace proposals" were designed to save Germany from certain disaster.—A.P.

Work—Or Fight, Order In U.S.

From STANLEY BURCH, Reuter's Special Correspondent
Washington, Saturday.

IN two bold measures "freezing" the whole of America's manpower, President Roosevelt's Government today switched the red light against any new production outside the imperative needs of war.

"Work or fight" is now the nation-wide rule.

First the War Production Board banned indefinitely extension of all civilian production beyond the level of the current quarter. Every possible man-hour must be concentrated on meeting the demands of the Armed Forces.

The second order "froze" 4,260,000 deferred workers in war jobs, and warned them that any man quitting his job without permission faces conscription.

The War Production Board order dated December 7 was held secret until today.

The output of artillery and mortar ammunition is being stepped up by sending 4,700 soldiers to munitions factories.

Mr. Eric A. Johnston, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, stated on his return from the European front:

"There is a shortage of all kinds of ammunition. The prospect is that fewer goods will be available for civilians a year hence than today."

ARNHEM HERO WEDS

"MAD COLONEL" WEDS
Lieut.-Col. David Dobie, D.S.O., known as the "Mad Colonel" of the men of Arnhem, after his marriage at St. Saviour's, Walton-st., Chelsea, yesterday, to Aline Rosemary Hunter-Blair. Some of the men of Arnhem formed a guard of honour.

Vichy Men For Trial

PETAIN ON FRENCH 'BLACK LIST'

PETAIN and Laval, officially described as "fled to Germany," appear almost at the bottom of the French "Black List" of 68 former Vichy ministers and officials accused of treason, whose cases are being examined by the French High Court of Justice, says a report from Paris reaching Reuter yesterday.

This French "Black List" which is published in the Paris newspapers is in alphabetical order, and contains enough ministers to fill two outsized governments.

They include Chautemps and Flandin, former Prime Ministers of France, two War Ministers, three Ministers of the Interior, and three Ministers of Information. There are also six generals and two admirals.

Besides Pétain and Laval, ten other Vichy Ministers are described as "fled to Germany."

Nineteen are "under arrest." Two are "in foreign countries."

The "Black List" also includes six former Ministers who were killed or "executed by Patriots"

These include: Admiral Darlan, who was assassinated in Algiers after the Allied landing in North Africa; Philippe Henriot, Minister of Information, who was shot by Patriots in his bedroom in Paris;

Paris Television To Start Soon

TELEVISION will be resumed in France next month, says a report from Paris. France will thus probably be the first European country to put its pre-war television service back into action.

Television broadcasts will be transmitted three hours a day, three days a week, according to "Radio 44," the French radio journal.

The programmes will include theatrical performances, shadow plays, music hall sketches, circus shows, and "everything the eye can see," says "Radio 44."

ATHENS: PEACE HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

He concluded with the assurance that in the event of his two prior conditions being complied with satisfactorily he would immediately report to Field-Marshal Alexander.

"But," he observed, "one of the first steps that will be necessary (to put an end to the turmoil) must be the disbandment of all irregular forces of whatever political creed with a view to the reconstitution of regular national forces."

The reorganisation of the gendarmerie, he said, would have to be included in connection with the reconstitution of regular national forces.

Regarding the Greek Mountain Brigade he was prepared to order the brigade to return to barracks, where they were before the outbreak of hostilities, on condition that his two requirements were fully carried out.

Within an hour of the news that ELAS' reply had been received, General Scobie issued the text of a letter which he received from General Sarafis, Commander-in-Chief of ELAS, on December 10.

In it General Sarafis repeated the accusations that the present Greek Government had failed to take action against known collaborators, and had tried to officer the National Guard battalions with Fascists.

He also accused the British Government of deliberately fostering resistance movements hostile to ELAS.

In another passage he declared that the King of Greece "should be tried for his actions."

"You are trying to conquer occupied Greece," the letter continued, "taking the place of the Germans and overlooking the services and sacrifices of our nation.

"As free men, the ELAS are fighting with the fighters of Athens. We will continue the struggle wherever it is necessary until you realise your responsibility to history and after reconsidering your decisions, cease to attack.

"Thus can the formation of a genuine national government be brought about.

"We hope that, as our friends and Allies, you will remain neutral. If you do not and insist on your present stand and we succumb to your powerful forces, we will nevertheless have fully discharged our duty. But we will not succumb. Hellas has never succumbed to an invader."

General Scobie, commenting on General Sarafis's accusations, said that the disarming of Greek civilians had been adhered to, irrespective of their parties, including the Royalists.

National Guard battalions had been called up by age groups, in accordance with the decree of a previous Greek Government. The officers were approved by all Ministers, including those of the EAM.

General Scobie added: "I would oppose any move aimed at usurping a properly recognised constitutional Government. My order for the complete evacuation of Athens was agreed to by General Serafis, but never implemented by him, and armed ELAS troops remained in the capital, contrary to his given word."

Meanwhile, fighting has continued today in the streets of Athens, and ELAS troops, mortaring and shelling the centre of the city, scored a direct hit on General Scobie's headquarters at the Hotel Grand Bretagne.

People listening to an Allied broadcast during the day heard a loud crash through the loudspeaker, and the broadcaster, without the slightest deflection of voice, said: "Well, you can guess what that was"—and went on speaking.

During the night good progress was made in clearing the Piræus area of ELAS elements. Indian troops, after stiff fighting, captured Kastella Hill and secured control of the entire neck of land forming the southern part of the port.

ELAS troops failed in an effort to land behind the British lines in small boats.

In the central Athens area the British positions are now surrounded by barbed wire, supported by light artillery at strategic points Our perimeter now measures about 5.000 yards.

ELAS troops, who tried to take Omonias-square by infiltrating through the underground electric railway tunnel, were met in the tunnel by British paratroops and forced back.

Reports today indicate that 2.800 ELAS men have been taken prisoners, 600 killed and 400 wounded, since the fighting began.

HITLER'S Propaganda Chief has changed his tune, tells world that all Huns want is self-esteem, a little air and a dose of medicine.

Let's Have Games And Coffee: Goebbels

GOEBBELS, Nazi propaganda chief, the man who led the Reich's glee chorus when everything was going well at the front, wants the Allies to call off the war and have coffee and games and a dose of medicine instead.

He said so yesterday, when he told the Huns what he would like to give them as a Christmas gift.

This is his "peace and good will on earth" plan, given in his "Voelkischer Beobachter":

Peoples should live and let live.

Frontiers should be the scene of the happy traffic in goods, not a place where soldiers die in trenches.

Brazilian coffee should be drunk by all and not sent to the bottom of the ocean.

Good German medicines should be bought by all and Olympic Games should be the only place of merry conflict—that is our idea of peace.

"STOP BOMBING"

We cannot call it peace when a morbid war-monger in London undermines German attempts to stop bombing warfare and when capitalists are out to grab all of the world's supply of petrol, rubber, wheat and other raw materials, so that Germany goes without.

We shall be satisfied when peace for Germany means air for her to breathe, self-esteem, and an equal footing with others.

Until that is granted to us, there will be war.

Germany did not ask for this war and tried hard to avoid it.

As the devouring flames of war burnt through the world order, Germany did her utmost to quench the flames and thus to save the world from all the hell of war.

Germany is determined to drink the last dregs of the cup of bitterness in this war.

The other side must learn that Germany will defend her right and her demands and her honour.

Germany has clearly stated her aims.—Reuter.

THANKS, CHURCHILL!

"Our thanks are due to the British Prime Minister for exposing to the world his future plans for Germany," a Wilhelmstrasse spokesman said yesterday.

"We will see that these plans are taught in every German school, that they are put into every German soldier's pocket, that they are posted up in every factory throughout the Reich so that every German will constantly have them before his eyes," he said.

Holland Disbanding Her 'Underground' Army

From CHARLES LYNCH, Reuter's Special Correspondent
Holland, Saturday.

MOVE to disarm "the Underground Army" is being made by the Dutch Government. Henceforth power of arrest and internment rests with the official police only.

Members of the "Underground" forces are free to join the police forces or become police auxiliaries. Those who do not do so will, presumably, be asked to return to civil life.

The order, which appears in all Dutch newspapers today, comes from Gen. H. J. Kruls, Chief of Staff of the Netherlands military administration.

Up to now, men of the Resistance movement, who wear orange armbands and no uniforms, have made hundreds of arrests in liberated Holland. In the days immediately following the liberation they are credited with preventing disorders such as the lynching of collaborators by the populace.

Since then many of the "Underground" have joined the army or have otherwise come under military command. The order says:—

POWERS DEFINED

"In the matters of arrest and internment it is necessary that a gradual return to normal conditions shall be made. The authority to arrest in liberated territory persons who endanger the security of the State rests with the military administration.

"The execution of those measures rests with the police, or with persons appointed by the military administration.

'Members of the Forces of the Interior are only authorised to arrest in regions where fighting is taking place, and they may arrest only those whose actions endanger that fighting action or who can be expected to hamper that action.

"Members of the Forces of the Interior have a duty to hand such arrested persons immediately to the police."

The Order adds that commissions will be set up to hear cases of suspected collaborators, and adds that members of the "Resistance" movement will have a large part to play in the activities of these commissions.

"By their splendid attitude during the years of occupation they are splendidly qualified for this work," the Order adds.

Continued from Page One

CRITICAL MONTHS FOR BIG THREE

The most serious aspect of the situation resulting from the events in Athens is its effect on post-war American policy.

The last ten days have produced exactly the atmosphere in which American isolation—in reality American nationalism — can flourish. It is the first time such an atmosphere has existed since Pearl Harbour.

The importance of all this is that when the time comes to implement the Dumbarton Oaks Security Council and give the American delegates power to commit the United States to joint action to preserve peace, there will be a strengthened Isolationist movement.

The danger is that if the Isolationist argument succeeds in preventing or weakening full American participation in the post-war world organisations, it will not mean simply American Isolationism similar to that after the last war, but eventually an aggressive nationalism

This aggressive nationalism would involve a grab for naval bases all over the world, determined efforts to retain war-time air bases, and cut-throat competition with Britain.

Because all these dangers are acutely realised by President Roosevelt and his Government, it is certain that Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Law, and any others, will find the United States anxious to meet Britain half-way in any attempt to put Anglo-American relations on a firm, enduring basis which would prevent relatively minor incidents, such as the Sforza affair, producing results out of all proportion to the magnitude of the cause.

A Date—With A Tiger

Myitkyina, Saturday.

WHEN having a date with a girl in Burma, you never know what will turn up.

Corporal Charles A. McCrary, of Centralia, Illinois, and Miss Carol Hagerman, Red Cross worker, of Kansas City, Missouri, were out driving near Myitkyina when they say a tiger's eyes shining in the jungle.

Corporal McCrary killed the tiger with one shot. It weighed 300 pounds and was seven feet long.—A.P.

GREAT NEW YEAR XWORD OFFER
£1,000 CASH—MUST BE WON
£750 FIRST PRIZE
£250 SHARED AMONGST RUNNERS-UP AND ALSO EACH RECEIVES BOX OF USEFUL GOODS

I agree that I shall be deemed to have full knowledge of and to abide by the Rules and Conditions governing the Competition. A copy of the rules can be obtained from "The People," Competition Dept., 30, Bedford-st., London, W.C.2.

From this issue of "The People" only one square may be sent by each competitor. Fix 3d. stamp on clues below.

SIGNED ....
(State whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

ADDRESS ....

Address Entry to "The People" Crossword Competition No. 344, High Holborn, London, W.C.2 (Comp.).

CLUES ACROSS.—3. What a runt is; 5. Distemper can be of the kind associated with this; 7. Pleasant this on long journey makes time pass more agreeably; 10. Circus is made up of them; 13. Delivery of numerous these would cause comment; 15. From an insufficiency of which poor Indians suffer; 16. Generally dealt with round a table.

CLUES DOWN.—1. One can produce good this out of a stew; 2. You'd expect a good driver to this well; 4. Those who do this are concerned with finance; 5. Good spin bowler should be able to exploit a worn this; 6. Calls for a degree of skill; 8. The place for this is on a tray; 9. Essentially civil; 11. A controversial speech will this opposition to make a counterblast; 12. Furniture can be of the kind usually associated with some kind of this; 14. It's necessary to this barrel before you empty it.

Closing Date First Post Sat., Dec. 30

See next week for details and final set of squares

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ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thinking up the right gifts is hard enough! And then they have to be bought — *and* wrapped — *and* posted . . . Do the whole job in an hour this Christmas by giving Savings gifts all round! Easy to buy, easy to send, and certain to be appreciated.

It's very simple! . . . Get beautifully coloured National Savings Stamp Gift Cards from your Savings Group, Post Office, Trustee Savings Bank or Savings Centre. They are free to purchasers of Savings Stamps. You can stamp them with 6d., 2/6 and 5/- stamps. In addition there are Gift Tokens sold in units of 15/- up to any amount. These can be exchanged for Savings Certificates or used to make a deposit in the Post Office or a Trustee Savings Bank.

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE

COMPANY MEETING

STANDARD MOTOR

Improved Liquid Position

The 41st ordinary general meeting of the Standard Motor Company, Ltd., was held on Friday at Coventry

Mr. C. J. Band (the Chairman), in the course of his speech, said: The net profit for the year is £199,286, which is £22,168 in excess of the profit for 1943 a fact that is not only gratifying to your directors, but has no doubt been noted with pleasure by all shareholders

The current assets show a very large increase with a corresponding increase in current liabilities. Nearly £250,000 of the increase in current assets is represented by additional investments and cash in the bank One important feature is that the net liquid position has improved to the extent of £153,663

Increases in stock and work in progress, debtors and creditors, reflect increased production in the company's factories The turnover for the year was a record in the history of the company

The directors have transferred £50,000 to general reserve, which now stands at £1,100,000. After deducting this £50,000 from the amount available, there is a disposable balance of £176,548, and your directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 30 per cent. less income tax, to allocate to the employees' special fund £35,000, and to carry forward to next account £33,548

Since Sir John Black became Managing Director of the company in 1933 the average dividend paid to the shareholders during those twelve years has been 23 per cent. a record that must be not only gratifying to the general body of shareholders but must be a source of pride to Sir John himself

The directors have acquired the remaining assets of the Triumph Company comprising the factory at Briton Road the goodwill, stocks, designs, jigs, tools etc., and the right to use the name "Triumph" in connection with cars We are confident that with our organisation it will prove a successful investment.—The report was unanimously adopted.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Of course you can't find Christmas fancies as you could before the war, but there are some you can make for yourself. Gingerbread men and paper-wrapped toffees will help to fill the children's stockings, and the Christmas cake will look twice as festive with a coating of icing.

GINGERBREAD MEN

Ingredients: 2 oz. sugar or syrup, 2 oz. margarine, 8 oz. plain flour, ½ level teaspoon mixed spice, 2 level teaspoons ginger, lemon substitute, 1 level teaspoon bicarbonate soda. *Method:* Melt in a pan the syrup or sugar and margarine. Pour into a bowl. Add some flour and the spice and lemon substitute. Stir well. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in a tablespoon of tepid water and add to the mixture. Continue stirring gradually adding more flour. Finish the process by turning out the mixture on to a well-floured board. Knead-in the remainder of the flour. Roll a small ball for the head, flatten it and place it on the baking tin. Roll an oblong for the body and strips for arms and legs. Join these together with a little reconstituted egg and put currants for the eyes.

HONEYCOMB TOFFEE

Ingredients: 2 oz. sugar (demerara if possible), 4 oz. syrup, 2 level teaspoons bicarbonate of soda. *Method:* Boil syrup and sugar together for about 5 minutes, or until it is a rich brown colour. While still boiling stir the bicarbonate of soda in very quickly. Pour into a well-greased sandwich tin, and allow to cool and set. When almost firm, loosen edges with knife and turn out on to wire tray.

ICING *made with ordinary Sugar and Household Milk*

Ingredients: 4 level dessertspoons sugar, 6 level tablespoons Household Milk, dry, 2 tablespoons water, colouring and flavouring.

Method: Mix sugar and milk together. Add water and beat till smooth. Add colouring and flavouring and spread on top of cake.

THIS IS WEEK 22—THE SECOND WEEK OF RATION PERIOD No. 6 (Dec. 10th to Jan. 6th)

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, W.1. FOOD FACTS No. 233

I know

ANGIER'S IS INVALUABLE FOR COUGHS AND COLDS

"The tonic effect of Angier's Emulsion upon the bodily functions builds up resistance to coughs and colds, bronchitis, influenza, and catarrhal affections. Angier's is also a splendid remedy when a cold has already started. It is soothing, and at the same time restores strength to the weakened system. *I know!*"

ANGIER'S *Emulsion*

Supplies are limited due to wartime restrictions.

TODAY'S RADIO

HOME SERVICE

7.0 a.m.—News. 7.20—Gramophone. 7.45—Chopwell Colliery Band. 8.15—National Music. **9.0**—News. 9.30—Service. 10.15—Music. 10.30—Orchestra. 11.0—Music-Lover's Calendar. 11.20—Violin Concerto. 11.45—Music for Children. 12.20

FROM THE U.S.

DAILY.—10.15 a.m.: America Calling Europe. 1,500 m. 373 m. and on short wave in the 41, 31 and 28 metres band.

p.m.—Piano. 12.50—Week's Films. **1.0**—News. 1.15—Country Magazine. 1.45—Gramophone. 2.15—In Your Garden. 2.30—Symphony Orchestra. 3.25—Christian News and Commentary. 3.40 app.—Symphony Orchestra. 4.30—Music While You Work. 5.0—Mudandod y Mor. 5.30—Children's Hour. **6.0**—News. 6.30—Northern Orchestra. 7.0—Travellers' Tales. 7.30—Yet More Songs of the West Indies. 7.45—Service. 8.25—Week's Good Cause. 8.30—Bleak House. **9.0**—Big Ben Minute for Reflection; News. 9.30—Sunday Rhapsody. 10.30—Epilogue. 10.38—Reading Aloud. 10.48—Evening Melodies. 11.20—Beethoven. **12.0** midnight—News.

GENERAL FORCES

6.30 a.m.—Record Album. **7.0**—News. 7.15—Sunday Serenade. **8.0**—News; followed by Messages from Overseas. 8.1—Cairo Calling. 8.30—Greetings from India. 9.0—Greeting from Italy. 9.20—RAF Calling (Australia). 9.30—Gwasaneth Crefyddol. 10.15—For Isolated Units. 10.30—Calling All Canadians. **11.0**—News Headlines. 11.15—As the Commentator Saw It. 11.30—Religious Service. **12.0** noon—News. 12.15 p.m.—Ice Hockey from Canada. 12.30—Dance Orchestra. **1.0**—News Headlines. B.B.C Northern Orchestra. 1.30—Brains Trust. **2.0**—News. 2.10—Spotlight. 2.25—Anne Shelton. 2.55—Thank You For Your Letters. **3.0**—Radio Newsreel. 3.15—Music Parade. **4.0**—News. 4.15—Books, Plays, and Films. 4.30—Dance Music. 5.0—Variety Band-Box. **6.0**—News. 6.15—Forces Favourites. 7.0—Sporting Record. 7.30—Palace of Varieties. **8.0**—World News and Home News from Britain; followed at 8.10 by Home News from Canada. 8.15—Tommy Handley in Itma. 8.45—Gramophone. 9.5—Parliamentary Summary. 9.15—Grand Hotel. **10.0**—Sunday Half-Hour; Epilogue. 10.30—Music While You Work. **10.58**—News Headlines and Close Down.